

Hafa Adai!

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www.saipantribune.com 50¢



OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Did you take part in last weekend's 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

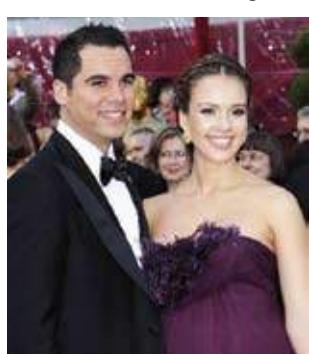
INSIDE



Within Reach

Barack Obama stepped to the brink of victory in the Democratic presidential race Tuesday night, defeating Hillary Rodham Clinton in the Oregon primary and moving within 100 delegates of the total he needs to claim the prize at the party convention this summer.

Nation...Page 14



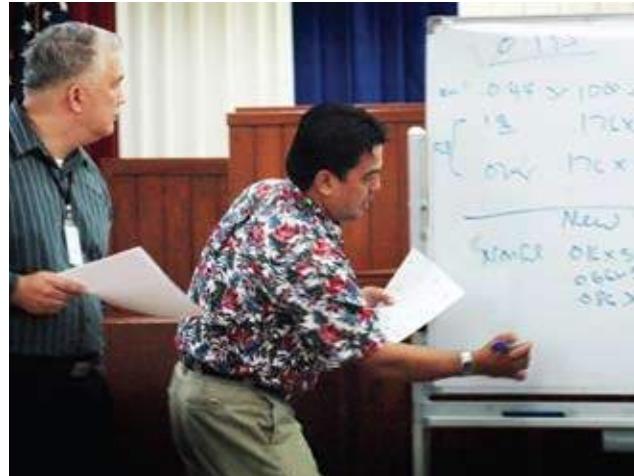
Off The Market

Sorry, guys. Jessica Alba's "taken" status is legal. The 27-year-old actress quietly wed producer Cash Warren on Monday, her publicist, Brad Cafarelli, said Tuesday in an e-mail to The Associated Press. Cafarelli didn't give further details.

Life & Style... Page 21

Traffic cop directing traffic found at fault on 3-car collision. PAGE 3
May 21-26 proclaimed Memorial Week. PAGE 5

30-50 percent discount for low-end power users eyed



By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Legislature are still ironing out how to apply the planned rate subsidy for electric customers.

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Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee Rep. Ray Yumul makes some computations while Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muna looks on during Wednesday's meeting with members of the Legislature at the House chamber on Capitol Hill.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

DPS hiring 20 cops, 16 firefighters, five dispatchers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is hiring 20 police officers, 16 firefighters, and five dispatchers in preparation for the deployment of its police and fire personnel to Middle East.

DPS Commissioner Claudio Norita told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Gov. Benigno Fitial on Monday or Tuesday signed the certification for the hiring of 41 personnel because of the emergency deployment.

Norita said hopefully by mid-June

See DPS on Page 4

Norita: INTERPOL effective tool in local law enforcement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI law enforcement agencies stand to benefit from the Department of Public Safety recently joining 50 other states and U.S. jurisdictions that have liaison offices for the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

"Having the INTERPOL connection is to me a beneficial. It is an important and effective tool in law enforcement," said DPS commissioner Claudio Norita yesterday at a press conference.

See NORITA on Page 4

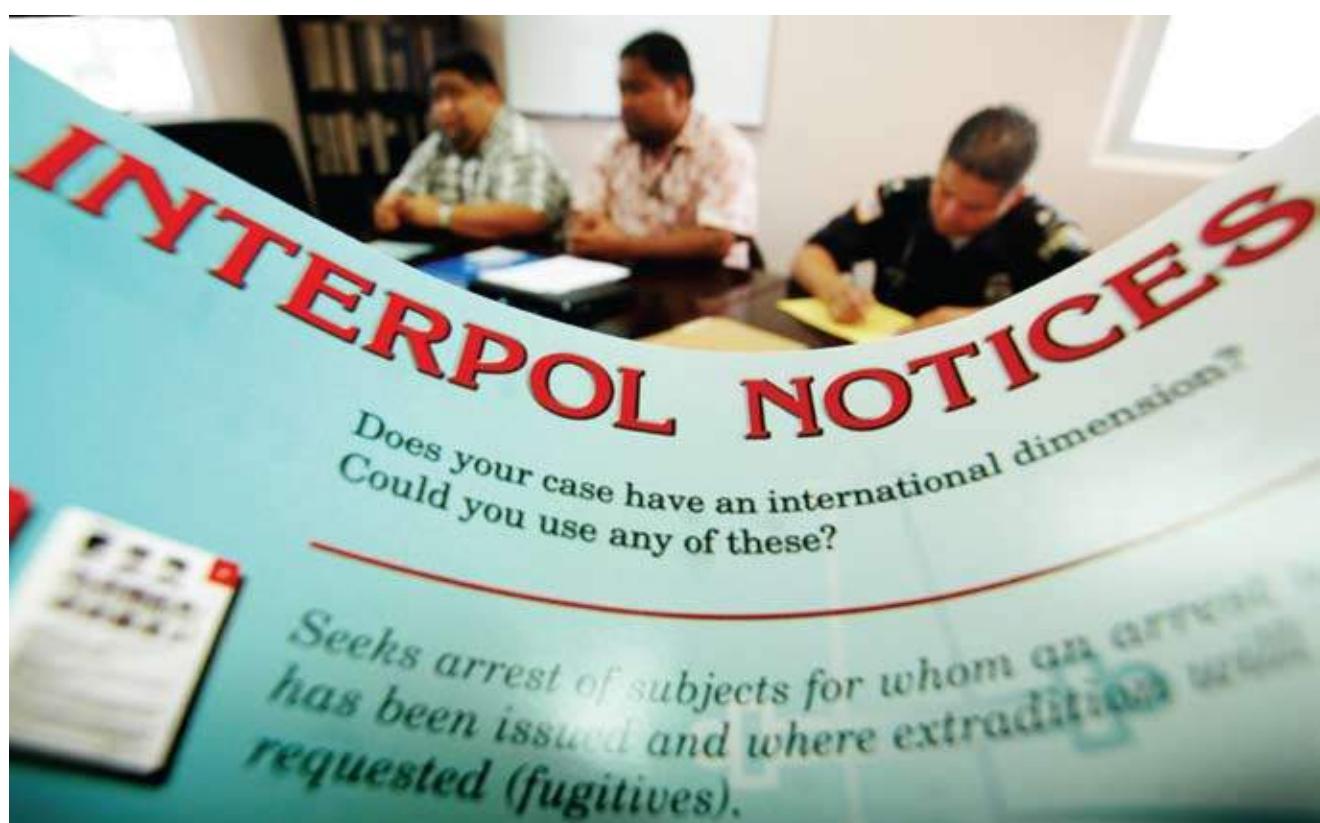
GOP issues guidelines for aspiring delegates

The NMI Republican Party will open for submission of letters of intent from those seeking the party's support in the U.S. congressional race.

The party announced yesterday it would accept letters of intent starting May 23, 2008. The deadline is June 6, 2008, 5pm.

To submit a letter of intent, one must be registered member of the NMI Re-

See GOP on Page 4



Department of Public Safety commissioner Clyde K. Norita, Commonwealth Ports Authority's James Ayuyu, and DPS Traffic Section chief Sgt. Thomas Blas answer questions from the media during Wednesday afternoon's press conference at the DPS central office in Susupe.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

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Local

Human trafficking in CNMI up almost 50 percent

By RIANNE MARIE BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The incidence of human traf-

ficking in the CNMI almost doubled for calendar year 2007, according to the Karidat Social Service.

Fifty victims of human trafficking sought assistance from Karidat's Guma Esperansa House of Hope for CY 2007, up from the 28 reported in the previous year.

Compared with other U.S. territories, this figure is far way up, with American Samoa Hawaii and Guam recording less than 10 put together.

According to research, the U.S. Department of Justice itself considers the CNMI a hotspot for human trafficking due to its close proximity to many Asian countries and its lax immigration system.

During her recent visit to the CNMI, Samantha Vardaman, director of programs for Shared Hope International, said one of the reasons why the CNMI was selected as one of the 10 locations to undergo human trafficking study is because "the CNMI has had extensive experience with human trafficking prosecutions."

SHI is a non-profit organization with the mission to rescuing and restoring victims of sex trafficking.

While on island, Vardaman met with local officials and community organizers to gather data

on the scope of the human trafficking problem in the Northern Marianas. She expressed her interest in young women who are being brought to the islands for prostitution.

According to Vardaman, the CNMI has had a number of successful investigations leading to convictions and prosecutions for sex trafficking.

"The FSM [Federated States of Micronesia] is not far from here and it is happening. Women and girls from the FSM are coming to Guam and Saipan and are being exploited. We know this, there are cases that

prove this out and that are being pursued. It's something to keep aware of a whole community," said Vardaman.

Karidat Social Service executive director Angie V. Leon Guerrero said that victims of the alleged crime are of different ethnicities.

"It can happen to just anybody," Leon Guerrero said.

Vardaman said the CNMI has an issue that larger cities do not have such as the ease of transportation among the islands.

According to research, 12 is the worldwide average age of entry into prostitution.

Local bill for improved immigration status to eligible alien workers still on the table

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives is moving ahead with a local bill seeking improved immigration status for long-time guest workers in the CNMI despite the federalization measure now in place.

Public hearings have been scheduled for House Bill 16-86, which proposes to allow eligible

alien workers to live and work at will in the Commonwealth.

Rep. Tina Sablan, one of the bill's sponsors, said that proponents of the measure are hoping the proposal can be considered when the regulations are drafted for the new federalized immigration system for the Commonwealth.

She said the bill would address the uncertainty facing a sizable number of workers who

would not qualify for temporary work—or "H"—visas. Businesses have expressed concern that there would not be enough workers to fill jobs in the Commonwealth when the CNMI-only transition program expires.

"If we passed this bill, there could be a compelling argument for the federal government to consider it. It would be difficult to ignore something like this," said Sablan.

She stressed the time sensitivity of the issue. Washington will take over CNMI immigration effective June 1, 2009.

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, led by Rep. Rosemond B. Santos, has scheduled a public hearing for June 12, 2008, 6pm, at the House chamber in the Legislative Building on Capitol Hill.

See LOCAL on Page 4

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Traffic cop directing traffic found at fault on 3-car collision

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorres@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A police officer, who was directing traffic flow at the Sugar King Monument intersection in Garapan, turned out to be the cause of a three-vehicle collision in the area.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Claudio K. Norita and DPS Traffic Section chief Sgt. Thomas Blas disclosed yesterday to the media that the second investigation determined that it was the traffic officer's fault contrary to the first report.

On behalf of DPS Norita apologized to John Terlaje, the driver of one of the two damaged vehicles, as the first preliminary report cited him as at fault in the crash.

"I want to apologize to Mr. Terlaje and his family because both him and his wife and their children were in the car at the time," the commissioner said, adding that he also apologized

to Mr. Guevarra, the driver of the second vehicle.

Norita said they will withhold the officer's name because he will be subjected to internal or administrative investigation.

Norita said a three-car collision that included a police vehicle, occurred during an XTERRA event last March 8 at the Sugar King Monument intersection.

Norita said there was a traffic officer directing traffic in the area at the time.

"The collision resulted in having a police car damaged also. The operator of vehicle 3, Mr. Terlaje, had been cited as the cause of the accident," he said.

The commissioner said later on as it was brought to DPS attention, Sgt. Blas conducted another investigation into the crash.

"In the end result, it revealed that the officer who was conducting traffic had caused the crash rather than Mr. Terlaje," he pointed out.

Blas said DPS received the report about the incident at 9:50am.

Blas said since there was a big event (XTERRA) at the time there were officers posted along Chalan Pale Arnold Road (Middle Road) by Sugar King to control the flow of traffic and let the athletes cross the intersection.

Blas said prior to the crash, the officer had stopped the vehicles on both southbound traffic—the inside and outside lanes.

At the same time the officer stopped the vehicle that was heading north in the inside lane.

The driver of the car that he stopped in the inside southbound lane indicated he was going to make a left turn.

Blas said the officer turned over to the outer northbound lane and from a distance gave a signal and assumed that the operator of the vehicle acknowledged him and was preparing to stop.

The officer then turned around and made a signal of the south-

bound inside lane vehicle to go ahead and make its left turn.

"And as that vehicle made its left turn, the car that he (officer) assumed to stop continued north and struck the vehicle that was making the left turn," Blas said.

Due to the impact, one of the vehicles also struck the police car that was also at the intersection coming from the Gold's Gym area.

"So we had a three-car collision," he said.

Terlaje was the driver of the vehicle that was heading north in the outside lane.

The first preliminary report indicated he was the one who

struck the vehicle that was making the left turn.

Terlaje was cited in the report to being at fault for failure to obey the officer directing traffic at major intersections.

"He (Terlaje) is cleared now," Blas said.

Blas said a follow-up investigation determined that the cause of the crash was the officer's controlling and directing traffic at the intersection.

"He failed to completely stop all traffic before he executed that left turn from that vehicle," he said.

Blas said they found out that the traffic officer was in viola-

tion of DPS standard operating procedures and traffic supervision or controlling and directing traffic at major intersections.

"So we concluded the case on that note and the officer like the commissioner said is being dealt with administratively at this time," Blas said.

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Live fire training today at FDM

The Emergency Management Office, Office of the Governor, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial would like to inform the general public that the U.S. Military Unit would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla. The schedule dates and time are as follow:

■ May 22, 2008 from 6am to

1am – Live fire training

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a ten (10) nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is advising the general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators to stay away from this area during

the time and dates indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (PR)

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eleventh CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, May 23, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Retirement Fund Building, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call

II. Public Comments

III. Reports

- a. Chair
- b. Board Committees
 - i. CIA
 - ii. CIP
 - iii. FPA
 - iv. LIA
- c. Commissioner
- d. Non-Public School Representative
- e. Student Representative

IV. Executive Session

- a. Legal Counsel's Report
 - i. Grievance matter update
 - ii. SSHS – Loyola University agreement
- b. Personnel
 - i. Selection of BOE Administrative Officer III
 - ii. PSS Legal Counsel Position
- c. Other matters

V. Old Business

- a. Rota High School Petition

VI. New Business

- a. Approval of SY 2008-2009 Head Start Calendar
- b. Approval of SY 2008-2009 Early Intervention Service Calendar
- c. Approval of Head Start 2008-2009 Training and Technical Assistance Supplemental Funding application
- d. Approval of School Leadership Grant application
- e. Professional Development Funds
- f. Approval of NASBE Professional Development Funds
- g. School Achievement Performance Video
- h. Selection of BOE Administrative Officer III
- i. Employment of COE

VII. Miscellaneous Matters

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

¹ Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each.
Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

30-50*From Page 1*

CUC executive director Antonio Muna met with the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications yesterday to discuss what relief can be offered to customers following the recent doubling of power rates.

The law, which suspended the rolled back power rates, provided some \$9 million for CUC's fuel expenses. The subsidy was not factored into the computation of the current power rates.

In the meeting yesterday, Muna and the PUTC committee agreed that subsidy should be given to low-end customers, specifically to those who use 1,000 kWh or less a month. It is not clear how much "discount" will be given to these customers, but CUC and the lawmakers are looking at 30 to 50 percent.

Muna said the credit would be applied once CUC received the subsidy payment from the Department of Finance. To date, all of the government funds paid to CUC are booked as payments for the central government's utility billings.

He added that the amount of discount to be given to qualified

customers would depend on how the \$9-million subsidy would be paid to CUC on monthly basis.

CUC estimates that customers in the 1,000-kWh block range would billed a total \$1.5 million, under the current power rates.

"Potentially, we could get a subsidy of \$1.5 million, and if the bills we need to address is \$1.5 million, then it essentially means no billings. We want to put some balance in the equation. We expect fuel to go up, so we need to make sure that people are getting a rate relief going forward, not just a one-time shot," said Muna.

Muna expressed hope that the rate subsidy would be finalized before majority of the May billings come out in the middle of June. If this is done, he said, low-end customers can expect their bill to show a line item for "fuel credit." If not, the discount will be applied when they pay at CUC.

A new rate schedule went into effect on May 3, 2008. Under the new scale, customers must pay a total of 37.3 cents per kWh for the first 500 kWh of usage. The rate increases with consumption.

Prior to May 2008, customers paid 17.6 cents per kWh for the first 1,000 kWh.

**DONATION TO THE ELDERLY**

Members of the man 'amko look on the various locally produced fruits and vegetables generously donated by the Saipan Agriculture Fair Association to the Aging Center in Garapan yesterday. The donors were Mr. & Mrs. Jun Avila, Mr. & Mrs. Amando Santos, Pedro San Nicolas, Ike Concepcion, Jesus M. Castro, Santiago Tudela, Greg Calvo, Bill Ada, Patrick Calvo, Cheryl Baka, Edward Deleon Guerrero, Ben S. Borja, and Crispin Guerrero.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

NORITA*From Page 1*

Norita and Sgt. James Ayuyu of the Commonwealth Ports Authority went to the U.S. National Central Bureau of INTERPOL (USNCB) in Washington, D.C. last month where they signed an agreement with INTERPOL.

Norita said the agreement would authorize DPS and Guam Police Department to have direct, immediate access to the INTERPOL database.

"It is information sharing network on criminal activity,

criminal information, criminal intelligence," he said.

The commissioner said INTERPOL has notices on people who are wanted in other countries, notices for seeking information on individuals that might have come from the CNMI going to another country.

He said INTERPOL provides information of offenses, background checks on criminals, missing persons, unidentified dead bodies, and also to warn police, intelligence on criminal activities.

"They have also database of 14 million stolen or lost passports. They also have database

of lost or stolen works of art all over the world," he said.

The commissioner said in the next few months, INTERPOL would ship out to CNMI the necessary hardware and software and security features for DPS to connect on line.

Norita said right now CNMI's access to INTERPOL is only through South Pacific Intelligence Criminal Unit (SPICUN).

"And what it does is we faxed to SPICUN the request and from SPICUN they will fax to USNCB in D.C. And they will bring it up to France, which is the headquarters for INTER-

POL. That takes months. At the time we got information back it is too late, the person has left the CNMI," he said.

The commissioner said having the signing of the MOU committing to the requirements of the IT and the security, CNMI will be able to have direct and instant access to the information data base.

"And we will also input our own date base in our system so they will be alerted for anybody what we might be needing for of interest to us," he said.

Norita said INTERPOL will put up a connection, a system and DPS will man it.

For Ayuyu, with INTERPOL creating the fusion center, CPA will be able to access information and share with the officers up at CPA.

With the information received from INTERPOL, Ayuyu said, CPA officers can detain or arrest anybody based on whatever information they got.

"Right now there's no system in place to identify any potential terrorist or wanted person from any other countries. With the INTERPOL it will make our job a lot easier. So whenever there are passengers coming in and we can plug them in the system. And if they are wanted

we can hold and detain them," he added.

CNMI DPS and Guam PD become the 65th and 66th U.S. departments respectively designated to meet the need to have Interpol liaison offices.

With 186 member countries, INTERPOL is reportedly the world's largest international police organization. Created in 1923, it facilitates cross-border police cooperation, and supports and assists all organizations, authorities and services whose mission is to prevent or combat international crime.

DPS*From Page 1*

2008 they can start with the police and firefighters academy and have the graduation in mid-

August 2008.

He underscored the need to immediately begin the academy as 32 police officers and firefighters are expected to be leaving for Middle East by July 15, 2008.

The party, which is the only local political organization recognized nationally, has tentatively scheduled a primary for July 12, 2008.

To date, Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio has come out publicly about his plan to run for delegate. He has asked the GOP to support his candidacy.

"That is the reason why they're authorizing me to hire these cadets so I can cover the vacancies," the commissioner pointed out.

Norita said interested cadets should visit the Office of Per-

sonnel Management to get the applications.

DPS personnel who have received the Army Reserve's call to active duty represents nearly 20 percent of the police and fire workforce on Saipan.

In his earlier letter to Fitial, Norita said this deployment call to Kuwait will put manpower drain in the police and fire workforce.

Another problem that DPS is facing is the lack of money to

recruit and train new personnel.

A cadet's training, including equipment, books and instructor fees, reportedly costs about \$13,000 to \$15,000. In addition, salary costs about \$15,000 per cadet.

GOP*From Page 1*

publican Party. Those who have not yet registered may do so until June 6.

The GOP requires a candidate fee of \$7,500 from aspiring delegates.

The election for the delegate position will take place on Nov. 4, 2008. But the electoral process begins in less than two months. The Election Commission will accept nominating petitions and candidacy documents from July 7 to Aug. 6.

Under the recently enacted delegate law, Northern Mari-

anas will have a representative with limited voting powers to the U.S. House of Representatives. Similar to House members and other delegates, the CNMI delegate will be elected to Congress every two years. He can serve on committees, as well as vote on legislation at the

committee level. But floor voting will not be permitted.

In a related development, the NMI Republican Party has elected Ed Tenorio as its new president. The roster of new officers include Charlene Tudela as first vice president, Ross Manglona as second vice president, Alissa

Ann Pangelinan as secretary, and Joaquin Villagomez as treasurer.

The precinct clubs are now led by James Cabrera (Precinct 1), Dino S. Palacios (Precinct 2), Skep I. Palacios (Precinct 3), Benigno M. Sablan (Precinct 4), and John Guerrero (Precinct 5). (Agnes E. Donato)

LOCAL*From Page 2*

Rota residents will be allowed to have their say on the bill from 8am to 5pm on Saturday, June 7, at the Rota Round House. Another public hearing will be held from 8am to 5pm on Saturday, June 14, at the Tinian High School cafeteria.

The Department of Commerce has submitted written

comments on the bill. Commerce Secretary James A. Santos opposed the bill "as it would essentially nullify existing statutes governing foreign investments in the Commonwealth."

Santos estimated that 85 percent of existing foreign investors would qualify as "resident foreign nationals," as proposed in the bill. He added that foreign investors, who do not currently qualify to be resident foreign nationals, will eventually do so

when they reach the five-year legal residency requirement period. "Nothing precludes a foreign investor from becoming an employee of his or her own business," he noted.

According to Santos, the CNMI government could lose at least \$200,000 in annual fees from the loss of foreign investor applications.

Co-sponsored by Reps. Heinz Hofsneider, Edward Salas and Victor Hocog, House Bill 16-96

proposes to allow long-time foreign workers to stay and work at will in the Commonwealth for five-year periods.

A foreign worker is eligible for a "resident foreign national entry permit" if he or she has lived legally in the CNMI for at least five years and has met character requirements. A resident foreign national entry permit is valid for five years and may be renewed.

The bill does not offer per-

manent residency, resident status, citizenship, or nationality to "resident foreign nationals."

People granted the new status would still be considered aliens for immigration purposes, and are subject to deportation.

However, they would be able to live and work at will in the Northern Marianas in the same manner as a permanent resident. They would receive employment preference over other foreign workers. They can

change employers freely. They can operate a business, be self-employed, and employ other foreign workers. They can bring immediate family members into the Commonwealth for the validity of their permit.

One tradeoff is that resident foreign nationals will no longer receive certain mandatory benefits such as 100-percent medical insurance coverage. They will have to negotiate such benefits with their employers.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, Senate President Pete P. Reyes, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, Military Veterans Affairs Office executive director Ruth Coleman, 2007 Little Miss Marianas Kayla Borja, WWII marine scouts, Vietnam veterans, Operation Iraqi freedom, veterans and family, Army active duty and reservists, and Pohnpei Softball League players, and guests gather for a photo shortly after the proclamation signing for Memorial Week inside the Governor's Conference Room on Capital Hill yesterday.

May 21-26 proclaimed Memorial Week

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez has proclaimed May 21-26 as Memorial Week to allow the entire community to offer their respects to those who paid the ultimate price for the freedom of people of the Commonwealth.

"No words or deeds can truly convey our appreciation for the service members who were killed in the line of duty. Their decision to bear arms, leaving family and friends behind as they go into combat, speaks volumes of their special devotion to our nation. Although they may not

be present their legacy resonates in life's simplest freedoms," yesterday's proclamation states.

Villagomez is calling on the community to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities in support and honor of our veterans.

A Memorial Day Ceremony will take place at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi on Monday, May 26, at 9am.

Ruth Coleman, executive director of the CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office, said the ceremony is to "celebrate and to honor

the brave men and women who served, with unwavering dedication and purpose, paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep the world safe,

and secure the freedom we enjoy."

The ceremony will feature music by the Pacific Winds Concert Band, as well as laying

of the wreath, 21 Rifle Salute, and Echo Taps. The keynote speaker will be Rear Admiral William French, Commander Naval Forces Marianas. Coleman said everyone is welcome to attend the event. (Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)

2nd of 3 women in alleged sponsorship scam falls

Police arrested on Tuesday afternoon the second of three women who were allegedly engaged in illegal sponsorship of 19 alien workers.

According to court documents, Weena P. Dulay, 19, was placed under arrest when she went to the Attorney General's Office's Criminal Division in Susupe.

Dulay was arrested for document fraud, conspiracy to commit document fraud, unlawful employment of aliens, conspiracy to commit unlawful employment of aliens, inducement by fraudulent misrepresentation, and immigration and labor entrepreneurship fraud.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja temporarily released Dulay on \$10,000 unsecured bond.

Naraja said the court and the government allowed Dulay's temporary release without posting any money considering that she has a three-month-old baby.

Dulay, Stacy N. Bautista, and Elenita E. Camacho are facing the same charges. Bautista was arrested on Friday, while it was

not clear yet as of yesterday whether Camacho was arrested.

A \$10,000 cash bail was imposed for the temporary release of Bautista.

Immigration investigator Erwin Flores of the AGO's Investigation Unit stated in his report that Bautista, Dulay, and Camacho created and used commercial enterprises such as GEM Professional Service, WPD Accounting Service, and Rhen Tailoring Dress Shop for the purpose of charging money to employ those workers and allow them to remain in the CNMI.

Dulay is the alleged sole-proprietor of the WPD Accounting Service. Bautista is the alleged sole-proprietor of the Rhen Tailoring Dress Shop, while Camacho is the sole-proprietor of the GEM Professional Service.

Flores said he checked the locations of these businesses and discovered they are not in operation.

Bautista and Camacho allegedly charged \$1,000 to \$1,500 to each alien worker sponsored under the name of three companies. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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**The House of Representatives**SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, Saipan, MP 96950**NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING**

DATE : May 20, 2008

CONTACT : Office of Representative Rosemond B. Santos
Telephone: (670) 664-8965
Facsimile: (670) 664-8966

The public hearing of the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations scheduled on June 2nd, 3rd, and 4th at 6:00 p.m. at the House of Representatives' Chamber is hereby rescheduled as follows:

Tuesday, June 10, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.

1. H.J.R. No. 16-3: "To put the question of calling a Constitutional Convention before the voters of the CNMI".
2. H.L.I. No. 16-1: "To amend Article IV of the Commonwealth Constitution to establish a Commission on the Judiciary and to establish that written opinions and decisions of the CNMI Superior Court and Supreme Court be issued within one year of submission of the case for opinion or decision".
3. H.L.I. No. 16-10: "To amend Article IV, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to authorize the election of the Chief Justice and Presiding Judge by a majority of the Justices and Judges, respectively".

The following witnesses are requested to be present:

1. Honorable Robert C. Naraja, CNMI Superior Court
2. Honorable Miguel S. Demapan, CNMI Supreme Court
3. Mr. Matthew Gregory, Attorney General

Witnesses are requested to submit written testimony to the Committee on or before May 30, 2008.

Interested Members of the General Public are also welcome to submit written or oral testimony.**Wednesday, June 11, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.**

1. H.L.I. No. 16-6: "To amend Article Section III Section 9 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands to require the adoption of an Annual Budget".
2. H.L.I. No. 16-7: "To amend Article II, Sections 2, 3, 5, 10, 13, 16, and 17 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands to improve Efficiency and Accountability in the Legislative Branch of Government".
3. H.L.I. No. 16-11: "To amend Article III, Section 9(a), of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to prohibit the withdrawal of any funds from the General Fund except by appropriations made by law".

The following witnesses are requested to be present:

1. Secretary Eloy S. Inos, Department of Finance
2. Mr. Matthew Gregory, Attorney General

Witnesses are requested to submit written testimony to the Committee on or before May 30, 2008.

Interested Members of the General Public are also welcome to submit written or oral testimony.**Thursday, June 12, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.**

1. H.B. No. 16-38, CS1: "To streamline the Government Employment Process the Commonwealth by Repealing and Re-enacting the Civil Service Law, Converting certain Government Positions to the Civil Service, and Establishing an Administrative Office of the Courts; and for other purposes".
2. H.B. No. 16-86: "To amend the Commonwealth Entry and Deportation Act (3 CMC § 4301 ET SEQ.) to create the Immigration Category of "Resident Foreign National"; and for other purposes".
3. H.L.I. No. 16-2: "To amend Article III, Section 11 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to authorize the election of an Attorney General; and for other purposes".

The following witnesses are requested to be present:

1. Ms. Mathilda A. Rosario, Office of Personnel Management
2. Mr. Norbert S. Sablan, Civil Service Commission
3. Secretary Gil San Nicolas, Department of Labor & Immigration
4. Secretary James A. Santos, Department of Commerce
5. Mr. Kyle Calabrese, Saipan Chamber of Commerce
6. Ms. Lynn Knight, Hotel Association of NMI
7. Honorable Robert C. Naraja, CNMI Superior Court
8. Honorable Miguel S. Demapan, CNMI Supreme Court
9. Ms. May B. Kara, CNMI Bar Association
10. Mr. Matthew Gregory, Attorney General

Witnesses are requested to submit written testimony to the Committee on or before June 2, 2008.

Interested Members of the General Public are also welcome to submit written or oral testimony.Copies of the legislation may be obtained at the Office of Representative Santos or may be downloaded at cnmleg.gov.mp.ROSEMOND B. SANTOS
Chairxc: Speaker, House of Representatives
Members, House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations
SAPLR
Media**Kannat Tabla reservoir system to be connected this May 24**

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announces the final pipeline connection of the Kannat Tabla reservoir from the Isley Booster I pump station. The CUC through its contractor, AIC Marianas, is scheduled to make the necessary pipe connection from the pumping station to allow water flow into the new Kannat Tabla reservoir and bring the system a step closer to its completion.

The USEPA funded over \$3 million for the Kannat Tabla reservoir and waterline project and its main goal is to pressurize the water system, improve water quantity, and quality to the Kannat Tabla, Finasisu, Chalan Kiya and Chalan Laulau areas.

The scheduled pipeline works will commence on Saturday, May 24, 2008, from 8am to 5pm. Water services to the residents of Kannat Tabla, Finasisu, As Terlaje, Chalan Kiya, and Chalan

Laulau areas will be affected during this period. Normal water hours will resume on Sunday.

The CUC offers the following tentative water schedule on May 24th for the following areas:

| AREAS AFFECTED | TENTATIVE WATER HOURS |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Kannat Tabla | 4am to 7:30am |
| Finasisu | 5am to 7:30am |
| As Terlaje, NMC area | 5am to 7:30am |
| Chalan Kiya | No Water |
| Chalan Laulau | 5pm to 9pm |

Residents are encouraged to practice strict water conservation and to teach children and household workers to save water especially during this period. Rainwater catchment systems/water tanks should be cleaned and float valves installed or replaced to ensure that water does not overflow from any tanks. (CUC)

Mechanical problems caused load shedding past two days

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that due to mechanical problems on engine No. 3 at power plant 1, the power plants are not able to adequately meet the island's power demand.

Therefore, the load shedding schedule for May 20 and 21, 2008 was implemented at 10:30am and will continue until the emergency repairs are completed. However, as a result of

the generation loss, the outages have been expanded to include other areas of the electrical grid as the emergency repairs are being performed.

The repairs are expected to be completed tomorrow afternoon.

The CUC apologizes for any inconvenience and will continue to work diligently to resolve the problem. (CUC)

Red Cross annual meeting today

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross is having its annual meeting today, May 22, from 5:30 to 6:30pm at the chapter office on Airport Road. All volunteers, donors, and o-

thers interested in the Red Cross are welcome to attend.

The purpose of the meeting is to hold elections for the voting members of its Board of Directors, review reports by chapter direc-

tors, and transact other business as it may come before the meeting. (Refreshments will be served).

For more information, please contact the chapter office at 234-3459. (ARC)

**The House of Representatives**SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, Saipan, MP 96950**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

DATE : May 12, 2008

CONTACT : Office of Representative Rosemond B. Santos
Telephone: (670) 664-8965
Facsimile: (670) 664-8966

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations will conduct a Public Hearing on Saturday, June 14, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Tinian Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive testimonies on the following legislations:

1. H.J.R. No. 16-3: "To put the question of calling a Constitutional Convention before the voters of the CNMI".
2. H.L.I. No. 16-1: "To amend Article IV of the Commonwealth Constitution to establish a commission on the judiciary and to establish that written opinions and decisions of the CNMI Superior Court and Supreme Court be issued within one year of submission of the case for opinion or decision".
3. H.L.I. No. 16-10: "To amend Article IV, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to authorize the election of the Chief Justice and Presiding Judge by a majority of the Justices and Judges, respectively".
4. H.L.I. No. 16-2: "To amend Article III, Section 11 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marian Islands to authorize the election of an Attorney General".
5. H.L.I. No. 16-6: "To amend Article Section III Section 9 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands to require the adoption of an annual budget".
6. H.L.I. No. 16-7: "To amend Article II, Sections 2, 3, 5, 10, 13, 16, and 17 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands to improve efficiency and accountability in the Legislative Branch of Government".
7. H.L.I. No. 16-11: "To amend Article III, Section 9(a), of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to prohibit the withdrawal of any funds from the General Fund except by appropriations made by law".
8. H.B. No. 16-38, CS1: "To streamline the Government Employment Process the Commonwealth by Repealing and Re-enacting the Civil Service Law, Converting certain Government Positions to the Civil Service, and Establishing an Administrative Office of the Courts; and for other purposes".
9. H.B. No. 16-86: "To amend the Commonwealth Entry and Deportation Act (3 CMC § 4301 ET SEQ.) to create the Immigration Category of "Resident Foreign National"; and for other purposes".

Interested Members of the General Public are requested to submit written testimony to the Committee on or before June 30, 2008.Copies of the legislation may be obtain at the Office of Representative Rosemond Santos or may be download at cnmleg.gov.mp.ROSEMOND B. SANTOS
Chairxc: SAPLR
Speaker, House of Representatives
Members, House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations
Media**The House of Representatives**SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, Saipan, MP 96950**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**DATE : May 12, 2008
SantosCONTACT : Office of Representative Rosemond B.
Telephone: (670) 664-8965
Facsimile: (670) 664-8966

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations will conduct a Public Hearing on Saturday, June 7, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Rota Round House.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive testimonies on the following legislations:

1. H.J.R. No. 16-3: "To put the question of calling a Constitutional Convention before the voters of the CNMI".
2. H.L.I. No. 16-1: "To amend Article IV of the Commonwealth Constitution to establish a commission on the judiciary and to establish that written opinions and decisions of the CNMI Superior Court and Supreme Court be issued within one year of submission of the case for opinion or decision".
3. H.L.I. No. 16-10: "To amend Article IV, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to authorize the election of the Chief Justice and Presiding Judge by a majority of the Justices and Judges, respectively".
4. H.L.I. No. 16-2: "To amend Article III, Section 11 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marian Islands to authorize the election of an Attorney General".
5. H.L.I. No. 16-6: "To amend Article Section III Section 9 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands to require the adoption of an annual budget".
6. H.L.I. No. 16-7: "To amend Article II, Sections 2, 3, 5, 10, 13, 16, and 17 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands to improve efficiency and accountability in the Legislative Branch of Government".
7. H.L.I. No. 16-11: "To amend Article III, Section 9(a), of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to prohibit the withdrawal of any funds from the General Fund except by appropriations made by law".
8. H.B. No. 16-38, CS1: "To streamline the Government Employment Process the Commonwealth by Repealing and Re-enacting the Civil Service Law, Converting certain Government Positions to the Civil Service, and Establishing an Administrative Office of the Courts; and for other purposes".
9. H.B. No. 16-86: "To amend the Commonwealth Entry and Deportation Act (3 CMC § 4301 ET SEQ.) to create the Immigration Category of "Resident Foreign National"; and for other purposes".

Interested Members of the General Public are requested to submit written testimony to the Committee on or before June 30, 2008.Copies of the legislation may be obtain at the Office of Representative Rosemond Santos or may be download at cnmleg.gov.mp.ROSEMOND B. SANTOS
Chairxc: SAPLR
Speaker, House of Representatives
Members, House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations
Media

27th Agricultural Fair this Saturday

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 27th annual Saipan Agriculture Fair will take place this

Saturday, May 24, at the Sabalu Market in Susupe.

After two years of absence, the Saipan Agricultural Fair Committee chairman Isidoro T.

Cabrera said he anticipates that the event will have a big comeback this weekend.

Saturday's event is also bringing back its traditional animal

auction for interested farmers or buyers, and even spectators.

This year will also include the annual Agricultural Fair plants and animals competitions

where trophies and cash prizes are at stake.

Farm owners will be entering their pigs, cattle, rabbits, and pigeons to vie for the year's overall championship in the animals category, while farmers will have as many as 69 different fruits and vegetables entered in the plants division.

Saipan Zoo will also be participating this year by bringing in a selected group of animals for people young and old to see.

There will be food and entertainment for the community to enjoy. A special recognition ceremony for two retired farmers, Dr. Jose Chong and Manuel Manglona, will also take place.

According to Cabrera, this is the first time in the history of the

SSHS to offer full summer program

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Southern High School will be offering CNMI students a full summer program entitled "Endless Summer."

SSHS vice principal Craig H. Garrison said this year the school will be offering double sessions now that summer is longer.

The first session will begin in mid-June to mid-July, and again in mid-July to mid-August. Each course is four weeks in duration with subjects in Mathematics, English, Social Studies, and Science. The summer program will also offer special elective sessions in post production film and video, "so students will have an opportunity to manage the school-wide video broadcast systems in addition to creating and editing a major film production," Garrison said.

Students will be have the opportunity to avail of the computer networking course this "Endless Summer" giving them the chance to create and design the new computer labs and reading labs on campus using windows active directory.

"At Saipan Southern, we believe that the long summer presents more opportunities than not. We take great pride in our ability to offer programs and activities to our students at any time of the year," Garrison said.

A handful of teachers and students in the community were afraid that the students may become "less constructive" or become delinquent minors in the

community as a result from the delayed school opening.

However, Garrison begged to differ saying that "before we start airing misguided concerns that somehow our children in the CNMI are going to turn into delinquent minors over the summer... let's have a little faith, not only in the Public School System, but in our children."

"They know right from wrong, they are young adults capable of making good decisions. Those who will get into trouble over the summer will most likely be the same ones who have been in trouble all along and that is a law enforcement issue not a Public School issue," said Garrison.

He added that with the help of the Department of Public Safety, parents, and "our unconditional love for our students, this will be a 'golden summer,' one which will provide opportunities, education and much deserved fun for the students," Garrison said.

Garrison said SSHS takes great pride in its ability to offer programs and activities to its students at any time of the year.

The SSHS campus is open every weekend throughout the school year as well as after school and most nights up to 8pm.

This, he says, allows the students access to learning and that students are right now requesting consideration for ideas of their own over the summer using the school facilities and campus.

Garrison said that the SSHS summer activities have been designed with careful consideration of saving on utilities cost.

LISS offers 50 students free summer classes

The Ladera International School of Saipan offers the first 50 4th to 8th students, ages 10-15 free summer classes this year.

"Giving back to the community is what we intend to do as we are offering a first come, first serve basis to parents who wish to take advantage of this free program for our local students," said LISS director Wayne Pangelinan.

There are two sessions for the summer program. The summer program is scheduled on a four-week lesson providing students continued learning.

It is set for June 9-July 5 and July 5-Aug. 1, Monday-Friday from 7:30am to 2:30pm.

The subjects that will be offered are Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, and English. Also, there will be afternoon programs offered for tutoring.

"Slots for students are capped and we are encouraging our local families to take advantage of what we are offering, but parents must act now and contact the school as some restrictions do apply," added Pangelinan.

"Because we are an international school, we wish to provide better opportunities for the community where each student can meet new acquaintances that we believe would be truly beneficial for the child's future," added Pangelinan.

This summer, LISS is expecting students from Korea, Japan, Russia, and local students. A mixture of international students from abroad ages 10 to 15 years old will be on island to partake in the LISS summer program.

For any more information, contact Wayne at 288-2006. (*Jacqueline Dela Cruz*)

"While the PSS is setting the goal to see a considerable savings due to the reduction in power consumption at all schools over the extended summer, we believe that most if not all these activities, including the learning of the students, does not have to mean they need to be in air conditioned room with lights on etc." Garrison said.

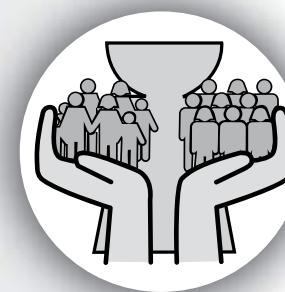
During the summer, SSHS plans on shutting down all large power consuming units and lighting, however there will be a few rooms such as the computer rooms that would the school would need to keep leave the air-condition on to protect the equipment.

Garrison said that thermostat will be adjusted to save on additional power. Teachers will also be encouraged to turn off the lights and use the windows in every classroom to provide daylight for instruction.



"2008 World No Tobacco Day" Is on May 30th, 2008 (Friday)

All restaurants, bars and hotels...May 30 is World No Tobacco Day and we want to recognize those establishments that have a smoke-free policy. If your establishment is 100% smoke-free or partially smoke-free please call the Community Guidance Center by Friday, May 23 to see if you qualify.



Please contact Ricky P. Itibus, Ed Camacho or Becky Covarrubias at 323-6595, 323-6586 or 323-7848.

CNMI Agricultural Fair that the event will include a special recognition for longtime farmers in the islands.

This year should have marked the 29th year of the CNMI Agricultural Fair but because of its absence in 2006 and 2007, they are officially celebrating only its 27th.

A budget of at least \$20,000 was needed to host the annual event that has become almost like a tradition to the local people of the CNMI.

"We [finally] got the funding through Saipan delegation through an appropriation and we also solicited from private businesses. [With that,] we got just enough to conduct the event," Cabrera said.

The event will take place this Saturday at the Sabalu Market in Susupe from 8am to 2pm. The opening ceremony will be at 9am.

Most Beach Road Magazine car rally participants this year are first-timers

This year's *Beach Road Magazine* Car Rally participants are mostly first timers wanting to be part of the Saipan road adventure of a lifetime.

As the May 24 event draws near, more and more phone and walk-in inquiries are being received at the *Beach Road Magazine*'s office from people interested to know more about the rules, entry fee and requirements, according to Susan Marchitti, *Beach Road Magazine* account manager and lead coordinator for the car rally.

"Most of those who have signed up so far are excited first timers. We also have at least four groups who had joined the first car rally event and have signed up again," Marchitti said.

Marchitti, who came up with the route to be taken by rally par-

ticipants and the questions that they will have to answer along the way, said this year's event will be more challenging from last year's. Navigators will have to pay attention to details.

Participants are urged to be at the starting point no later than 9am on Saturday to check in. "It would be greatly appreciated if they could be there a few minutes early to ensure a smoother process," Marchitti said.

The first car to be registered will be the first out of the start at 10am. The succeeding cars will be sent out at two-minute intervals. Each car will be given a number to place in their window for easy recognition at the checkpoints and finish.

Meantime, sponsors who had pledged support for the event have been presenting prizes to the car rally staff for the participants.

At stake are a gift certificate from Saipan Sea Ventures, 360 Restaurant; two gift certificates for an overnight stay for two at

Saipan Grand Hotel, lunch and dinner buffet also at Saipan Grand Hotel; an overnight stay for two at Palms Resort Saipan, and buffet at a Palms Resort F&B outlet; lunch for two at The Green Flash Restaurant; four gift bags from Boarderline; 60 duffle bags from Western Union, gift certificates for Megazone from Megabyte; two Wear-A-Marconi shirts, and Wave Jungle passes, a gift certificate for two to Red Box 799 and a gift certificate for two to the Sunday brunch at World Café, from World Resort.

Cash prizes will be given to the top three winners. First prize winner will get \$250; second prize, \$200; and third, \$150, Marchitti said.

Registration is \$15 and space is limited to 60 cars. The awards

party, where prizes will be presented, will be held at the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill in the evening of May 25 at 6pm. A special 10 percent discount on non-special food items will be given to car

rally participants.

The Second Annual *Beach Road Magazine* Car Rally is sponsored by Shell Marianas, Pacific Telecom Inc., Department of Public Safety, American Red Cross, Pacific Islands Club, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, Aquarius Beach Tower and Budget Car Rental.

The Second Annual *Beach Road Magazine* Car Rally is a competitive motoring event in which drivers must successfully complete a given course by following a set of instructions. Participants have been informed where the starting point is. They will receive a new set of instructions at each checkpoint, which will guide them through the next section of the rally up to the finish.

A car rally is not a speeding contest. It's a cross between a scavenger hunt and an IQ test behind the wheel that's guaranteed to take your driving skills to the next level. (PR)

WSR Elementary registration schedule

Registration for kindergarten and all grade levels including new students will be from May 22 to June 30, 2008 from 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

Requirements:
 1. Birth Certificate
 2. Health Certificate
 3. Student Health Insurance

4. Report Card/Withdrawal Forms from previous school (new students)

WSR Zoning—Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, Chalan Piao portion of As Perdido, and As Lito. (PR)



NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BAR EXAMINATION

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The Northern Mariana Islands Bar Examinations (MBE and Essay) will be administered on Wednesday, July 30, 2008 and Thursday, July 31, 2008. Interested applicants can obtain the application form and necessary information from the Bar Administrator by calling telephone no. (670) 236-9800, visiting the judiciary's website at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>, or by writing to P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950.

All applications and required fees must be submitted to the Bar Administrator no later than May 30, 2008.

Dated this 2nd day of May, 2008.

NORA V. BORJA
Bar Administrator
Supreme Court

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Accounting Clerk

Position: Accounting Clerk
Salary: PL 21-1, \$15,105.87 to per annum
 to PL21-5, \$18,356.51 per annum
 (starting salary commensurates with education and experience)

Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 23, 2008, OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED no later than May 23, 2008, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening.

Inquiries may be directed to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to ecfejeran@nmhc.gov.mp. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 22, 2000

PCB cleanup set to begin in July

Twelve years after the presence of electric capacitors containing polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) were discovered in Tanapag village, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will finally carry out an emergency removal of PCB contamination in Cemetery No. 2 (Lower Base Cemetery) between July and August of this year. The Army Corps will also clean up seven areas in the village which were found to have high contamination level of the toxic chemical, according to Ike Cabrera, director of the Division of Environmental Quality.

Report implicates Schorr to on-job politics

Some officials and employees of the Office of Insular Affairs, including its liaison officer in the CNMI Jeffrey Schorr, have conspired to discredit the Northern Marianas in their attempt to push legislation seeking federal takeover of the island's labor and immigration, according to U.S. House Resources Committee chair Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), who heads the panel that has oversight of the CNMI and other insular areas, has uncovered partisan political activities and other improprieties engaged in by individuals employed at OIA and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

CPA, Continental debate heats up

The aviation situation in the Northern Marianas has become a case similar to persisting arguments that surround the chicken and the egg. The debate is focused at which of the two really came first: termination of all nonstop flights from Saipan to Japan or dramatic decline in visitor arrivals to the Northern Marianas. Continental Micronesia said slow market demand forced the carrier to drop all direct international flights to Saipan but the CNMI government argues otherwise.

MAY 22, 2001

Gov't told: Reduce residency requirement for CNMI voters

The CNMI government plans to reduce the number of days required among Americans before they become eligible to register and vote in local elections. The Commonwealth Election Commission pointed out the importance of reducing the 120-day residency requirement to 50 days, citing possible constitutional questions that may be thrown against the currently imposed two-month residency.

Scientists off to Northern Islands

Scientists from the US Geological Survey Hawaii District are gearing up for a two-week mission to the Northern Islands as part of renewed efforts to tackle the possible resettlement of residents who were forced out of the remote islands. Experts from the Hawaii Volcano Observatory and the USGS Water Resources Division arrived on Saipan Sunday to get a head start on the Volcano Hazard and Water Resources Assessment project being undertaken by local and federal agencies.

Suspected FMD-tainted canned products seized

Forty cases of confiscated imported canned goods suspected to be infected with foot and mouth disease were ordered incinerated by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources yesterday. DLNR officials ordered the immediate destruction of the imported sauces from the Philippines after quarantine officers refused to release the merchandise to a licensed businessmen on Saipan.

MAY 22, 2002

Government agencies told: Retain your money with BoS

Commerce Secretary Frank Atalig said that Gov. Juan N. Babauta has encouraged government offices and autonomous agencies to retain their money with the Bank of Saipan as a means to stabilize the bank and its operation. This comes soon after the BoS opened its doors to the public on a limited basis beginning yesterday.

Retro salary hike takes baby steps toward implementation

The good news is that government employees past and present could soon receive their long-awaited retroactive salary increase. The bad news is, if this goes through, only those employed in Saipan will get their salary hikes. This developed after the Saipan and Northern Island Legislative Delegation adopted Standing Committee Report 13-1, which recommends the passage of a local bill that would increase the local license fees for pachinko and poker machines in Saipan by a whopping 200 percent.

Joeten's Best Buys of the Week!

**May 22
thru 28, 2008**

In celebration of
**Joeten's
59th
Anniversary!**

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CFL Light Bulbs**

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FREE!**

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While supplies last! No Raincheck

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Hurry, while supplies last!

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Joeten Shopping Center Beach Road, Susupe
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GUALO RAI BRANCH
Gualo Rai Commercial Center
Middle Road Tel: 235-9322 - Fax: 235-9325

SAN VICENTE BRANCH
San Vicente Road
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MON. THRU SUN. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M.

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The good China

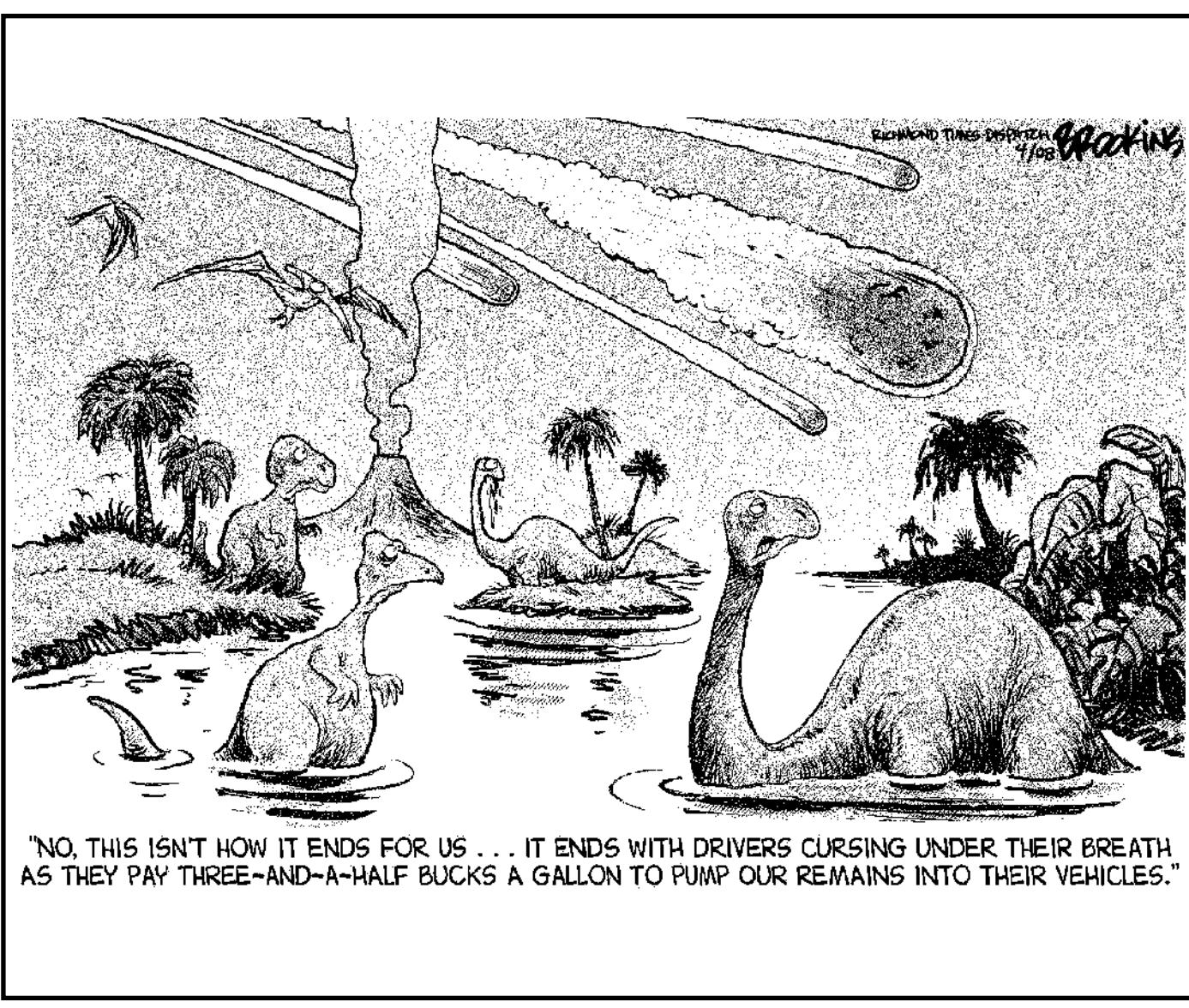
A government's moral fiber can be judged by the way it treats its most vulnerable citizens, and its competence gauged by how well it serves them when disaster strikes. So it's instructive to compare the excellent response of the Chinese authorities to the devastating earthquake in Sichuan province with the callous and lethal incompetence of Myanmar's officials in helping the victims of Cyclone Nargis.

Myanmar nearly doubled its official death toll last week to 78,000 and raised its count of the missing—most of whom must by now be presumed dead—to 56,000. The belated admission of the scope of the disaster, which did not come as news to the rest of the world, was apparently delayed so that the ruling junta could stage a mock referendum rubber-stamping its self-serving changes to the nation's constitution while storm victims were dying by the thousands. Two weeks after the storm, ruling Senior Gen. Than Shwe finally put in an appearance in the ravaged zone, but officials didn't come with enough food even for the people who lined up to see him. Spurred perhaps by calls to invoke the international "responsibility to protect" Burmese storm victims against the failures of their government, the junta on Monday agreed to allow in some Southeast Asian relief teams. But it's not clear how much even the United Nations will be permitted to help, a mortal insult to the 2.5 million victims facing hunger and disease.

In contrast, the prompt and sensitive response of the Chinese authorities to the devastating quake reveals the evolution of a regime that, while still by any definition oppressive, understands that its legitimacy depends on earning the respect of the governed (at least when the governed are Han Chinese and not Uighurs or Tibetans). The government sent in 130,000 troops, President Hu Jintao toured the afflicted region, and local officials acknowledged that shoddy construction and possibly corruption might be factors in the collapse of school buildings. With the death toll mounting, the once-xenophobic government saw nothing humiliating in accepting foreign relief teams from Japan, Taiwan, Russia and South Korea.

The disaster unfolding in Myanmar should prompt China to rethink its unwavering support of a near-absolute right of sovereignty even for regimes guilty of crimes of commission or omission against their own people. If China continues to enforce its anti-interventionist policies in the U.N. Security Council, thwarting international efforts to squeeze regimes in Sudan, Zimbabwe or Myanmar, then it has a particular obligation to pressure those regimes in private to mend their pitiless ways.

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Leaky faucets

The Water Task Force came through the neighborhood several months ago to install their "smart" meters. This ended our days of paying a flat rate with unmetered water and started our concerns about the little leaks around the house. We realized that a couple of leaky faucets create a steady drip that adds up to gallons, and those gallons of water will find their way onto a higher-than-already-too-high utility bill. So in the next few days the water pump was fixed, one of the toilets got a new float, and the bathroom sink drips were plugged.

Leaks in your business can add up over time and turn into a lot of wasted dollars. Utilities are just one way you can "plug" some leaks through more energy-efficient equipment and practices. [As I write this on my laptop in the dark at 9:32pm because of another CUC power outage, I'm reminded of the many drips over there that have conspired, over time, to give us the service we have come to expect.]

It isn't just the drips that cost you money, but all the inefficiencies that cause you to spend more than is necessary to operate your business and produce a profit. Leaks can also be found in old or poorly functioning equipment and tools you use to operate your business, the lack of maintenance given to your equipment, poor productivity of your workforce, the lack of effective accounting or monitoring systems, poor record keeping, your strategy, structure or operations, shipping methods, packaging and inventory tracking, shrinkage from theft or poor storage, paying for ineffective advertising, frivolous legal expenses, or high medical cost from unsafe conditions.

All of the leaks in your business add up to a lot of wasted dollars that drain the bottom line. Let's take a look at some ways you can plug a few of the leaks. Many of your big leaks will come from human inefficiencies. One study estimates that people waste over two hours in an eight-hour workday. That means over 25 percent of your employees' time is spent doing something that does not contribute to the growth or maintenance of your organization, and that time is sometimes used misusing other resources or assets of the business (i.e. surfing the net, driving a vehicle to do personal errands on company time and gas, etc.)

Often, employees don't intend to waste company time, but are victims of ineffective micromanagement practices that don't allow them to take the initiative to make improvements. "People leaks" can sometimes be remedied by being better organized, using time management techniques, effective training, holding people more accountable for results, and offering the right incentives to get individuals moving in the right direction.

When considering the leaks that come from the "things" in your organization, you must divide expenses into two categories: strate-

By RIK AND JANEL VILLEGRAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

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tic versus non-strategic costs. Strategic costs are those things that clearly bring in more business and improve your bottom line, and non-strategic costs are everything else; which includes administrative costs of all kinds.

An analogy would be taking a boat ride to another island and halfway to your destination you discover that you have a leak in the boat, and your fuel is running low. You have to make some decisions that will allow you to stay afloat, so you would focus your attention on plugging the leak, carefully monitoring your fuel supply, and throwing any non-essential things overboard to reduce your weight and drag on the boat. The boat, fuel, and supplies needed to plug the leak would be your strategic cost, while everything else that contributes to the overall weight without helping you stay afloat, would be non-strategic costs. The problem with most businesses is that they cut the strategic costs by throwing away the remaining fuel, ignoring the leak, and maintain, or even increase the non-strategic costs that will weigh the business down even more.

Create a simple cost report by dividing all of your expenses into two categories, and then follow this simple, yet powerful concept that will do more to increase your profits than just about anything else. On the strategic costs side of your ledger, plan to outspend your competition in good times and bad. This can include things like effective marketing, sales expenses, and other things that generate more sales or improve your staff's ability to perform. For the items on the non-strategic side of your column, your objective is to ruthlessly cut all non-strategic costs to bone.

Now, this may seem like common sense, but 95 percent of business owners and managers do not practice it, and that is why it can give you a competitive advantage. By plugging your leaks and improving your strategic costs, you will move faster and farther ahead than your competition. When better times eventually come, you will find your business has not only survived the rough storm, but will also be in a better position to take advantage of opportunities that open up.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Adversarial politics and professionalism in education

Adversarial politics was meant for the three branches of government, not our education system.

I have been telling teachers for years that there a level of politics that must be played by teachers if teachers are to have a genuine voice in BOE policy. The position of the teacher rep on the board is a "check" the affects of BOE policies on students, teachers and the entire system. The problem or challenge has always been to "maintain a level of professionalism and objectivity" for what is best regardless of the messenger (administration or teachers). When I first proposed tenure for teachers the former COE said "it is us against them" meaning the board and administration AGAINST teachers and setting the conditions for the adversarial confrontation the CNMI witnessed between the board and me when it should have been all about collaboration—not confrontation. I'm sure teachers and people with common sense have figured it out now.

The recent blunder(s) of the board with PRAXIS is proof of failed professionalism due to the adversarial politics of the board. First, the COE and board predicted 80 percent of teachers were suppose to pass the test on their first try—didn't happen, next teachers only needed the Reading & Writing Test—had to add a "content test" for each subject and finally all teachers were to complete their testing by 2006—now its 2009. The merits of my arguments proved to be true and the board still remained in denial as to the value of a teacher rep. I even gave the board data and alternatives to help teachers and they didn't even recognize me for giving them the solution of using federal funds to train teachers and even pay teachers to pass PRAXIS—the adversarial and unprofessional politics of the previous board.

Now, here we go again. The idea for an after-school and outreach programs over the summer for our students has been denied "without cause" with no explanation. The response only stated "not a good use of funds." But if the term "without cause" sounds familiar, that's how principals get rid of teach-

ers and staff they don't like and their termination usually not based on "merits" just like the rejection of the grants. I actually wrote the board and the commissioner to inquire "WHY" the after-school and summer grants were denied but I never got an answer. Every government official has a fiduciary responsibility to respond to EVERY inquiry by a voting citizen addressed to them because they work for the PEOPLE—people don't ignore their boss, duh! But the 19th century "TOP DOWN" style of leadership dictates that the hard questions and inquiries the board doesn't like will continue to go into the trash can figuratively. That's why we are now discussing it in the news because the board doesn't want to live up to its fiduciary duty to reply with rational based on "sound facts." The board has also trashed the certified questions I presented on behalf of ALL teachers—a total disregard and disrespect of teachers. The board is even trying to get the law changed so they don't have to answer these hard questions because the questions clearly favor teachers based on principle. Common sense tells me the board has chosen adversarial politics and un-professional behavior in dealing with teachers.

Teachers were asked to write Innovative Assistance Grants (IAP). Teachers were well aware of the needs at the school and the teachers and principal prioritized and approved the after-school and outreach program. common sense tells me that teachers and principals know more about what the students needed at the school level to help their students than a person sitting in an office on Capital Hill. Saying an after school program is "not good use of federal funds" but not saying WHY or giving any rational for denying teachers and students outreach programs is typical of the 19th century style of leadership. No reason was given because there isn't a legitimate one. The lack of money is not an excuse because there is more than enough in federal funding available. So why ask teachers to be innovative only to turn down their proposals without cause or even trying to see if the program is feasible—it's

called educational experimentation and research to improve student outcomes.

I would suggest that the board members, the commissioner and deputies and some principals that don't have leadership in education credentials at the masters or doctorate level read the seventh edition of "Management of Organizational Behavior" by Hersey, Blanchard, and Johnson that includes the Hawthorne Studies and the X & Y Theory. It would also help if they read "Educational Governance & Administration" third edition by Sergiovanni, Burlingame, Coombs, and Thurston. I have never doubted the commitment of any board member or the COEs to education. I also believe they are all very smart and capable people but what I do question is their "leadership in education skills." Just because a person has a degree(s) and a good education and they are very smart DOES NOT make they are a leader. The previous commissioner had a doctorate in counseling, the present commissioner has a doctorate in business, none of the deputy commissioners have graduate degrees in educational leadership and I think most if not all of the present board members don't have a graduate degree in educational leadership—see the problem. As

unique as education is in our society, the PSS is run no different than any other part of our government and we all know how dysfunctional our government has operated. When you ask why the PSS has not caught up to the mainland in student achievement in over 30 years it should be clear our leadership style and decisions have been poor. The PSS must change the decision process to solve the mystery of attaining equal scoring and equality in our educational services with schools on the mainland.

The after-school programs I proposed are not needed on the mainland because there is a library in the neighborhoods of schools and many academically driven activities easily accessible to students. There is nothing in Kagman or any of the other villages for our students. You would think it is only natural that we create some form of educational outreach facility in Kagman for students after

school and during the summer—duh. I do want to make it clear that I was not placing the responsibility on the school system because it is really an issue for the CNMI government to provide Libraries and educational facilities for students but it's very apparent the Legislature thinks we only need baseball fields in the villages.

I was merely asking PSS to step up and fill the void for educational activities after school and during the summer, especially when teachers wanted these programs, we have the federal funds to pay for the activities and given the obvious need for these activities in the communities on all three islands. Instead, I was accused of putting it all on PSS and parents were reminded of their "parental duties." But still no rational as to WHY NOT have these programs—adversarial politics to flip the real issue of the program to turn the focus on parents and me oppose to the merits or lack of merit in the programs. There wasn't anything bad thing said about the idea for the programs which speaks volumes to the real reason for the rejection and I'm sure people with common sense know the reason—and it wasn't merit, fairness or necessity like it should have been.

Parents need PSS' help, not a "parenting speech." Parents can't create after-school programs and activities for EVERY child—PSS can. Parents don't need to be told to plan educational activities—parents need PSS or DCCA to offer the venue for the activities and parents will make sure their child attends. What "outreach programs" do PSS have in place to assist in the community with the education of our children after school and during the summer? Where is the "activity listing of events" after school and during the summer sponsored by ANYONE to help parents? Asking parents of preschools to have their child ready to read but where are the "standardized books and materials" for preschoolers to help the parents get their child ready, especially the majority of parents who child doesn't attend Head Start which is why I proposed the Ready Set Go Project five years ago that was denied.

To put all the responsibility of pre-schooling, after-school activities, and summer activities on parents when neither the government nor PSS want to offer the proper support system is a hypocritical statement. Parents have heard these parenting speeches from PSS' leadership for years and it should be clear by now with our PTA participation being at an all time low—ITS NOT WORKING!

Real leaders welcome challenges and problems—not throw them in the trash. Real leaders listen objectively and respects the recommendations and the people that work under them—not ignore them. Real leaders promote an atmosphere where a subordinate employee feels she/he is apart of the decision process—not 19th century "Top-Down Leadership." Real leaders create conditions for employee moral to be at its highest—not conditions where teachers are afraid to even run for the board when they should be fighting over such an honorable position. Real leaders cherish their responsibilities to their clients (students in this case)—not put their responsibility off on individual parents, especially when every child and adult knows there is NOTHING academically driven for students after school and during the summer for FREE. Real leaders accept this type of constructive criticism like a professional and make the necessary changes because real leaders know their attitude will definitely determine their altitude and the altitude of the organization.

Under ordinary circumstances this news letter would at least get me an audience to discuss the programs and their merits but this is the CNMI and I don't have a local last name so I won't hold my breath waiting—the sad and ironic truth that improve possibilities face in the CNMI. But I do hope this will help to end the adversarial politics and create a more professional attitude towards the working relationship with teachers because it is needed and its common sense.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

To: Madame K.F.H. O'Harnett

I had read your letter to the editor addressing to Mr. Gregorio (Greg) Cruz. I believed you are kind of disturbed mind. You did not pass the U.S. history or the CNMI history. You lacked knowledge as to how Mr. Greg Cruz obtained his U.S. citizenship.

For your information, Greg had obtained his U.S. citizenship by birth, thru his parents. So why you had to question Greg on this. You have absolutely no right to ask such a question like this. You are not an immigration officer nor working for the immigration office.

Mr. Greg Cruz is not an alien like you. He is a natural born U.S. citizen.

Please, try to read the CNMI Covenant that the CNMI people voted and approved and signed by the United States of America President.

Please go back home where you had originated and try to figure out yourself as to how you obtained your nationality. And then come back to the CNMI and explain to us.

If in case I addressed you improperly, please forgive me. I assumed you are a woman and not a man for you are hiding behind a mask.

Mario Quichocho Taisacan
Saipan

Judges crying about paycuts

Some of the CNMI judges are really greedy for fighting to keep their overpaid salaries. Just what makes them so special? While the rest of us are suffering through bitter times, they want to keep living their lives of luxury.

While the rest of us are on a sinking ship, they want to ride yachts. They expect us, taxpayers, to continue to fund their overpaid salaries. They complain about reducing their salaries, which pay over \$100,000 per year, while many CNMI residents have to settle for \$3.55 per hour.

Your governor wants to keep the wages dirt low at \$3.55 per hour. He is insane. Who can afford to live on their own at \$3.55 per hour? I suggest that the governor and those greedy judges join many of us and get paid \$3.55 per hour. Stop wasting our taxpayers money on expensive judges, municipal councils, and a bloated Legislature!

Jeff Flores
Koblerville

I found a camera...

I found a digital camera at Banzai cliff while walking my dogs late Tuesday afternoon. There is only one picture on it (a local woman) who I cannot identify. The person who can identify the model of the camera can have it back. I can be reached at 235-7358.

Danny Wyatt
Via email

Letter to the Editor

Response to Wendy Doromal's comments on emergency regulations

A set of comments on the emergency regulations with respect to the federalization cap, attributed to you, was delivered to the Department of Labor by Junhan B. Todeno, although we have not received any comments directly from you. Moreover, these comments seem to have little to do with the emergency regulations required when the federalization bill passed. However, these comments have been registered as a part of the administrative process. This is the Department's response.

The only time that a foreign national worker would be repatriated while a case was pending in a court is if the court refused to issue an order authorizing the foreign worker to remain in the Commonwealth pending the completion of the case. Foreign national workers are not repatriated pending NLRB, EEOC, or U.S. Labor cases. However, the procedure with respect to determinations on status has changed. The Department of Labor will determine status as soon as a permit expires or a contract is terminated prior to expiration. If eligible, the worker will be given an opportunity to transfer. If a transfer is arranged, then the worker retains status under the new contract. If no transfer is arranged, the worker loses status but may remain until the case is determined before being repatriated. There is no denial of due process.

It is not correct to assert that most foreign national workers who bring labor cases, EEOC, NLRB, or U.S. Labor cases are "owed money from violating employers." In fact, most workers who bring cases of any kind want only one thing—which is to be able to remain in the Commonwealth for as long as possible. In a very high proportion of cases, wage claims are abandoned and never pursued, so the employer owes nothing.

The Department of Labor does not have responsibility either for deportation of overstaying workers (this is the responsibility of the Division of Immigration) or for enforcement of monetary awards included in administrative orders (this is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Superior Court). The Department of Labor publishes lists of overstaying workers so that any worker whose status needs to be corrected will have an opportunity to get this done. The Department of Labor publishes lists of those who may be holding unpaid administrative orders so that those workers can be assisted in pursuing their claims in Small Claims Court. You are absolutely wrong that the Department of Labor publishes one kind of list and not the other. Please see the lists published on Monday, May 19, as examples.

When an administrative order is issued, the Labor Department considers a case "settled" only if the parties have entered into a voluntary settlement agreement which has been approved by a hearing officer. In all other cases decided by a hearing officer, the Labor Department considers a case closed 30 days after the order is issued and served on the parties if the matter has not been appealed to the Secretary. The Department will facilitate payment within a 30-day period by accepting checks from employers and delivering those checks to foreign workers. However, after 30 days, the Department does not collect amounts awarded. Collection matters are pursued in the courts. There is no flaw in the Department's policies with respect to its orders or post-order actions. Most administrative agencies in the United States operate this way. In the U.S., no foreign worker is given any special administrative process for assistance in adjudicating wage claims. All claims are made before the courts.

Most employers are law-abiding and pay the monetary awards. Some appeal both to the Secretary and to the courts, as is their right. Some win their appeals, and no monetary payment is due. In the past, one problem has been employers who declare bankruptcy (as they are allowed by law to do) and leave workers unpaid. That happens to all types of workers under U.S. law, which allows the discharge of wage claims in bankruptcy. In the past, another problem has been foreign-based employers who leave the Commonwealth and leave workers behind who are unpaid. Once persons are beyond the territorial limits of the Commonwealth, the

It is not correct to assert that most foreign national workers who bring labor cases, EEOC, NLRB, or U.S. Labor cases are "owed money from violating employers." In fact, most workers who bring cases of any kind want only one thing—which is to be able to remain in the Commonwealth for as long as possible. In a very high proportion of cases, wage claims are abandoned and never pursued, so the employer owes nothing.

CNMI government has no jurisdiction to enforce any administrative order. Another problem has been that foreign workers decide not to pursue their judgments, in some cases perhaps because they are illegal overstayers. The Department of Labor recently turned over to the Department of Finance many checks paid by employers under administrative orders that were never picked up by the foreign worker. In other instances, administrative orders have remained unenforced for years, well beyond the six-year statute of limitations and are now, under Commonwealth law, unenforceable. It is not true that the Department's policies are flawed; it is not true that anyone is "sticking it to the workers; and it is not true that anyone is "ignoring the violations of the employers" as you assert. In fact, the Commonwealth's system is much more advantageous to foreign workers than the labor system in the mainland U.S. in nearly every respect. Workers are not disadvantaged by small claims court procedures. Filing a small claims case costs no more than filing a labor case with the Labor Department. Foreign workers do not need lawyers in order to pursue collection in Small Claims Court. The clerks and the judge assist workers to make their claims, and these claims are decided promptly.

There is nothing unusual about using the courts to collect administrative orders that include money judgments. This is done in nearly every state in the United States. That is what courts are for. Courts have far more powers than do administrative agencies. Courts can even send people to jail for significant periods in order to encourage them to pay their debts.

There is nothing unconstitutional about any practice of the CNMI Department of Labor. If you survey the states of the United States, you will find that foreign workers who come to the Commonwealth are afforded far more procedural rights and protections than state agencies (for example in Florida), and certainly better protection than federal agencies provide to guest workers in the U.S. In most cases, guest workers get better protection of their rights in the Commonwealth than they would if they were working at comparable jobs in their home countries.

In assessing amounts owed to foreign workers, it is important to understand that the Commonwealth law allows workers to collect far more than they would if they were working in any state on the mainland. Commonwealth law allows collection of a full 12-months unpaid wages if no job was provided. In the states, no worker would collect for 12 months of not working. Every worker would be required to mitigate damages and it is unlikely that more than 30 days of unpaid wages would be allowed for an unfinished contract. In addition, in the states, no "liquidated damages" would double a worker's award. Analyzed against U.S. standards, foreign workers in the Commonwealth are not owed \$6.1 million, but less than 1/10th of that amount.

Because many cases are uncontested, with only the worker showing up at a Labor Department hearing, it is not possible to determine with accuracy how many cases of worker fraud exist. As you know, workers and their advocates understand that if the employer does not show up, there will be no one to contest their claims and they can make almost any untrue assertion without fear of contradiction.

The Department of Labor is not "blaming" the ombudsman for anything. The Department asked the ombudsman to provide copies of the orders and sworn statements that the ombudsman had collected. The ombudsman refused. The ombuds-

the staff to sort through years-old files that have been sent to storage and; therefore, the Department decided to deal with this matter administratively, which the Department is doing. Please recall that the ombudsman has the assigned task of assisting foreign workers with their claims. The ombudsman never acted in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, or 2006 to do anything about unpaid administrative orders that were lapsing beyond the statute of limitations and thus becoming unenforceable under Commonwealth law.

If you have further questions or comments, please let us know.

Cinta M. Kaipat
Deputy Secretary of Labor



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2 SALES ASSOCIATE (Part-Time) – \$6.55/hr.

years retail experience (preferably in the field of footwear, minimum high school diploma or equivalent).

1 SALES ASSOCIATE (Full-Time) – \$6.55/hr.

years retail experience (preferably in the field of footwear, minimum high school diploma or equivalent).



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Request for Proposal RFP 08-016

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for Janitorial Services for the PSS Head Start Program. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 08-016" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than June 6, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 08-016, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1) copy). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

**/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education**

**/S/ Carl F. Dela Cruz
Acting P & S Officer**

Business



Traders work in the crude oil options pit at the New York Mercantile Exchange, Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

Oil settles above \$129 for first time

NEW YORK (AP)—Just in time for the start of the summer driving season: Oil near \$130 a barrel and gas getting closer to an average of \$4 a gallon.

Crude prices spiked to yet another trading high Tuesday as supply concerns mounted. At filling stations across the country, the national average price for a gallon of regular gasoline touched \$3.80 for the first time, having followed oil's spectacular rise.

The June contract for light, sweet crude traded as high as \$129.60 on the New York Mercantile Exchange before settling at \$129.07, up \$2.02 from Monday's record high. The expiration of that contract, which ended with the close of Tuesday's trading, created additional volatility as traders scrambled to lock in positions.

It was the 10th time in the

last 12 sessions crude prices have hit trading or closing records, if not both.

The July contract, meanwhile, hit its own new high, trading up to \$129.29. It will become what traders call the front-month contract on Wednesday.

"I keep making projections, and they keep turning out to be too low," said Darin Newsom, senior analyst at market analysis provider DTN. "We're already pushing up against \$130. If we clear that, there's no reason to believe crude oil can't get to \$140."

Oil's march to new highs coincided with the Labor Department's report of an bigger-than-expected rise last month in wholesale inflation excluding energy and food. The combination raised fears that rising

costs will slice into Americans'

discretionary spending, and that sent stocks falling sharply on Wall Street, with the Dow Jones industrials losing nearly 200 points and closing at 12,828.68.

Drivers looking forward to road trips this holiday weekend will find no relief at the gas pump. The national average price for a gallon of regular gasoline is now \$3.80 on the nose, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service, meaning gas prices are up about 19 percent from this time last year. Diesel jumped nearly 2 cents overnight to a record \$4.54 a gallon.

Business, first-class air travel declined in March

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of international air travelers flying in business or first-class fell in March by the largest amount in five years, the latest bad news for an industry buckling under record fuel prices and slowing global economies.

The International Air Transport Association on Tuesday said premium air traffic shrank 3.9 percent in March compared with the same month last year, after growing by 5.1 percent in February. Although the drop was exaggerated both by the leap year adding an extra day to February and because March business travel fell due to an early Easter, it was the largest "absolute decline" in business and first-class passengers since 2003.

"Given the importance of premium passengers for airline profitability the absolute decline in numbers is bad news, particularly since the price of jet fuel rose 170 percent over the year to March reaching \$130 a barrel," IATA said.

Wholesale inflation slows in April after March increase

WASHINGTON (AP)—Wholesale inflation slowed in April following a big jump in March but the improvement is likely to be temporary as consumers are battered in coming months by price hikes for gasoline, food and a host of other items.

Most worrisome of all, analysts said, were indications that surging energy and food costs were spreading to other parts of the economy, causing more widespread inflation problems.

For April, wholesale inflation was up 0.2 percent, the Labor Department reported Tuesday, following a much bigger 1.1 percent jump in March.

While that was lower than expected, the closely watched core inflation reading, which excludes energy and food, jumped by 0.4 percent, double what had been expected. Over the past 12 months, core inflation has risen by 3 percent, the highest reading in more than 16 years.

Nation

Obama wins Oregon, moves to brink of Democratic nomination

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Barack Obama stepped to the brink of victory in the Democratic presidential race Tuesday night, defeating Hillary Rodham Clinton in the Oregon primary and moving within 100 delegates of the total he needs to claim the prize at the party convention this summer.

"You have put us within reach of the Democratic nomination," he told cheering supporters in Iowa, the overwhelmingly white state that launched him, a black, first-term senator from Illinois, on his improbable path to victory last January.

Obama lavished praise on Clinton, his rival in a race unlike any other, and accused Republican John McCain of a campaign run by lobbyists.

"You are Democrats who are tired of being divided, Republicans who no longer recognize the party that runs Washington, independents who are hungry for change," he said, speaking to a

crowd on the grounds of the Iowa Capitol in Des Moines as well as the millions around the country who will elect the nation's 44th president in November.

Clinton countered with a lopsided win in Kentucky, a victory with scant political value in a race moving inexorably in Obama's direction.

The former first lady vowed to remain in the race, telling supporters, "I'm more than determined than ever to see that every vote is cast and every ballot is counted."

But in a sign of confidence on the front-runner's part, party officials said discussions were under way to send Paul Tewes, a top Obama campaign aide, to the Democratic National Committee to oversee operations for the fall campaign.

And in a fresh sign that their race was coming to an end, Clinton and Obama praised one another and pledged a united party for the general election.

"While we continue to go toe-to-toe for this nomination, we do see eye-to-eye when it comes to uniting our party to elect a Democratic president this fall," said Clinton, whose supporters Obama will need if he is to end eight years of Republican rule in the White House.

Clinton won at least 37 delegates in the two states and Obama won at least 23, according to an analysis of election returns by The Associated Press. All the Kentucky delegates were awarded, but there were still 43 to be allocated in Oregon, and Obama was in line for many of them.

He had 1,940 delegates overall, out of 2,026 needed for the nomination. Clinton had 1,759 according to the latest tally by the AP.

With about 30 percent of the votes counted in Oregon's unique mail-in primary, Obama was gaining a 60 percent share to 40 percent for Clinton.



Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill., takes the stage at a rally Tuesday, May 20, 2008, in Des Moines, Iowa.

...plans general election team

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama is quietly planning to take over the Democratic National Committee and assemble a multistate team for the general election, the latest sign that he is putting rival Hillary Rodham Clinton and the nomination fight behind him.

Top Obama organizer Paul Tewes is in discussions to run the party, several Democratic officials said Tuesday.

Obama spokesman Bill Burton said no final decisions have been made on general election plans and that such decisions would be premature with Obama yet to clinch the nomination.

Tewes is one of the leading architects of Obama's success in the marathon Democratic primary race. He engineered Obama's critical victory in the Iowa caucuses on Jan. 3, which gave Obama the upper hand and Clinton was never able to fully overcome.

DNC executive director Tom McMahon and

DNC political director Dave Boundy traveled to Chicago last week to meet with Tewes and other campaign officials to discuss merging efforts. The party officials have held similar meetings with Clinton campaign officials and last week got an agreement with both campaigns to start raising money that will benefit the eventual nominee.

The Obama campaign also is in discussions with staffers who will be dispatched to various swing states, but holding off on making announcements until Obama has won the nomination. Officials who spoke to The Associated Press about the discussions insisted on anonymity because the campaign wanted to keep the deliberations quiet.

Obama needs 2,026 delegates to clinch the nomination, and he moved within 100 of that goal after contests in Kentucky and Oregon Tuesday. Clinton was more than 250 delegates back.

Kennedy has cancerous brain tumor

BOSTON (AP)—Sen. Edward M. Kennedy was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor Tuesday in what could be the grim final chapter in a life marked by exhilarating triumph and shattering tragedy. Some experts gave the liberal lion less than a year to live.

Doctors discovered the tumor after the 76-year-old senator and sole surviving son of America's most storied political family suffered a seizure over the weekend. The diagnosis cast a pall over Capitol Hill, where the Massachusetts Democrat has served since 1962, and came as a shock to a family all too accustomed to sudden, calamitous news.



Kennedy

"Ted Kennedy and the Kennedy family have faced adversity more times in more instances with more courage and more determination and more grace than most families have to," said Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass. "Every one of us knows what a big heart this fellow has. He's helped millions and millions of people—from the biggest of legislation on the floor to the most personal."

Kerry added: "This guy is one unbelievable fighter."

Kennedy's doctors at Massachusetts General Hospital said he had a malignant glioma in the left parietal lobe, a region of the brain that helps govern sensation, movement and language.

Seizures can be caused by a wide variety of things, some of them relatively minor. The finding of a brain tumor—and

specifically a glioma, an especially lethal type—was about the worst possible news.

Kennedy's doctors said he will remain in the hospital for the next couple of days as they consider chemotherapy and radiation. They did not mention surgery, a possible indication the tumor is inoperable.

Outside experts gave him no more than three years—and perhaps far less.

"As a general rule, at 76, without the ability to do a surgical resection, as kind of a ballpark figure you're probably looking at a survival of less than a year," said Dr. Keith Black, chairman of neurosurgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

In a statement, Dr. Lee Schwamm, vice chairman of neurology at Massachusetts General, and Dr. Larry Ronan, Kennedy's primary physician, said the senator "has had no further seizures, remains in good overall condition, and is up and walking around the hospital."

"He remains in good spirits and full of energy," the physicians said.

An Associated Press photographer who was given access to the senator on Tuesday captured Kennedy, dressed in a gray sweater and dark slacks, joking and laughing with family members as he sat at a table in a family room at the hospital.

Kennedy's wife since 1992, Vicki, and his five children and stepchildren have been at

his bedside.

"Obviously it's tough news for any son to hear," said Robin Costello, a spokeswoman for one of Kennedy's sons, Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I. "He's comforted by the fact that his dad is such a fighter, and if anyone can get through something as challenging as this, it would be his father."

Kennedy, the Senate's second-longest serving member, was re-elected in 2006 and is not up for election again until 2012. Were he to resign or die in office, state law requires a special election for the seat 145 to 160 days afterward.

Among the potential Democratic candidates: Martha Coakley, the state's attorney general; Rep. Edward J. Markey; former Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II, Kennedy's nephew; and Kennedy's wife. The Republican contenders could include former Gov. Mitt Romney or former Lt. Gov. Kerry Healey.

Kennedy has left his stamp on a raft of health care, pension and immigration legislation during four decades in the Senate.

Senators of both parties heard about Kennedy's condition during their weekly, closed-door policy lunches, and some looked drawn or misty-eyed.

Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., wept as he prayed for "my dear, dear friend, dear friend, Ted Kennedy" during a speech on the Senate floor.

"Keep Ted here for us and for America," said the 90-year-old Byrd, who is in a wheelchair. He added: "Ted, Ted, Ted. My dear friend. I love you and miss you."

way out of this," Rafshoon said from his home in Washington. Jordan's battle with cancer began 22 years ago, when he was diagnosed with lymphoma, followed by bouts with melanoma and prostate cancer. Rafshoon said a memorial service was planned Friday at The Carter Center in Atlanta and Carter would attend. Carter said in a statement that he and his wife, Rosalynn, "are deeply saddened." "Hamilton was my closest political adviser, a trusted confidant and my friend. His judgment, insight and wisdom were excelled only by his compassion and love of our country."

Court strikes down Va. late-term abortion ban

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—A Virginia law banning a type of late-term abortion is still unconstitutional, even though a similar federal ban was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, a federal appeals court ruled Tuesday. The 2-1 decision by a panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirms the same court's 2005 ruling striking down the law. The Supreme Court had ordered the appeals court to take another look at Virginia's statute after the ruling on the federal ban.

The appeals court cited a key difference between the federal and state bans on the procedure that abortion opponents call "partial-birth abortion." The federal law protects doctors who set out to perform a legal abortion that by accident becomes the banned procedure. The Virginia statute provides no such protection. The state has two weeks to ask the full federal appeals court to review the ruling, or 90 days to appeal to the Supreme Court. The attorney general's office "is reviewing all possible courses of action," spokesman J. Tucker Martin said.

Former White House aide Hamilton Jordan dies at 63

ATLANTA (AP)—Hamilton Jordan, a political strategist from south Georgia who helped propel Jimmy Carter to the White House and served as his chief of staff, died Tuesday after a long battle with cancer. Jordan, 63, died at his home in Atlanta about 7:30 p.m., said Gerald Rafshoon, who was Carter's chief of communications. "He was a great strategist. He just couldn't strategize his



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China Earthquake Relief Donations

On May 12th, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck the county of Wenchuan in the Sichuan province of China. The official death toll has reached over 30,000 with over 200,000 injured. The earthquake also left tens of thousands homeless.

The Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI from May 15th to 20th has collected US\$34,000 in China earthquake relief donations. We urge the community to join us to raise the relief fund. Donations may be made to the following collection centers:

1. Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI
2. Canton Restaurant
3. Sun Leader
4. Dollar Days
5. Transamerica
6. Modern Stationery
7. Dolphin Wholesale
8. Guangdong Hardware
9. Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino

Donations may be made by check to:

1. Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI
2. The Chinese Consulate General in LA with note "China Earthquake Relief"

Collection of donations ends on May 31, 2008. All donations will be remitted in the first week of June, 2008 to the Chinese Consulate General office in L.A.

Contacts:

Anna Chan 234-3873

Ta Bun Kuy 322-1328

中国地震赈灾捐款

China Earthquake Relief Donations

2008年5月12日四川省汶川县发生7.8级大地震，此次灾难造成数万人遇难，逾20万人受伤。这严重的伤亡事件，使灾区的人民无家可归……

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塞班中华总会

Asia

UN chief: Myanmar says yes to foreign helicopters

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar will allow U.N. helicopters to ferry aid to cyclone victims, the U.N. chief said. But state media reported Wednesday the government will not accept any disaster relief from U.S. warships.

The New Light of Myanmar newspaper said such U.S. military assistance would come “with strings attached.”

The U.S. has several helicopters on standby on a warship off the Myanmar coast and in neighboring Thailand.

The state media report said that other U.S. aid airlifted into the country was welcome, an apparent reference to ongoing relief flights of cargo planes from Thailand to Yangon. The United States has been sending about five such flights a day.

On Tuesday, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the world body has received permission from Myanmar to use nine helicopters to carry aid to stranded victims.

“We have received government permission to operate nine WFP (World Food Program) helicopters, which will allow us to reach areas that have so far been largely inaccessible,” Ban told reporters in New York before departing on a trip to Myanmar.



U.N. Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes was in Myanmar seeking to persuade the junta to let in more international assistance and paving the way for Ban’s visit, which begins Thursday.

Holmes said he told Myanmar’s prime minister, Lt. Gen. Thein Sein, that the U.N. wants to support aid efforts, “as we would do in any other country in any disaster of this scale, where clearly the size of the tragedy outweighs the capacity of any country to deal with it by itself.”

Despite Wednesday announcement regarding the U.S. military carrying aid, the junta appears to be slowly relenting to foreign pressure to accept more outside help, but even foreign aid workers already in the country are still banned from the worst devastated areas. The U.N. said only a fraction of survivors had gotten any international assistance.

The official death toll stood at about 78,000, with 56,000 more people missing. Conditions in the low-lying Irrawaddy River delta remained precarious, with survivors facing disease, malnutrition and exposure to the elements.

China's post-quake challenge: 5 million homeless

AN XIAN, China (AP)—China is grappling with the next massive task in the aftermath of its earthquake—how to shelter the 5 million people left homeless.

Many were living Tuesday in tent cities like one at the base of Qianfo mountain in the disaster zone, offering some stability—along with food and medical care—to those whose lives were upended.

“After the quake, we

couldn’t sleep for five days. We were really, really afraid,” said Chen Shigui, a weathered 55-year-old farmer who climbed for two days with his wife and injured father to reach the camp from their mountain village. “I felt relieved when we got here. It’s much safer compared to my home.”

But there’s not enough room to go around.

The government issued an

urgent appeal Tuesday for tents and brought in the first foreign teams of doctors and field hospitals, some of whom were swapping out with overseas search and rescue specialists.

The switch underscored a shift in the response to China’s worst disaster in three decades from an emergency stage to one of recovery—and for many, enduring hardship.

On the second of a three-day

national mourning period, the authoritarian government appeared to be moving to rein in the unusually free reporting it allowed in the disaster’s first week. Most major newspapers carried near-identical photographs on their front pages of President Hu Jintao and other senior leaders with their heads bowed—a uniformity that is typical when state media censors direct coverage.

cial officials of Myanmar’s military government.

“I believe further similar moves

will follow, including expediting the visas of (foreign) relief workers seeking to enter the country,”

Ban said. “I’m confident that emergency relief efforts can be scaled up quickly.”

Japan parliament OKs space defense bill

TOKYO (AP)—Japan’s parliament voted to allow the country’s space programs to be used for defense for the first time Wednesday as part of Tokyo’s push to give its military a greater international role.

The upper house of parliament approved the legislation with an overwhelming 221-14 vote. The vote followed earlier approval by the lower house, thereby lifting a 1969 ban on military use of outer space.

The law, one of several moves in recent years by Japan to give greater freedom to its armed forces, allows the military to develop more advanced spy satellites for intelligence gathering and missile defense.

However, the law says that the space programs will have to be limited to defense only as defined in the nation’s pacifist constitution. The U.S.-drafted 1947 constitution prohibits Japan from offensive warfare.

The law came with a supplementary resolution to ensure transparency and review within two years of enactment, said ruling Liberal Democratic Party lawmaker Hiroshi Okada, who chairs the upper house Cabinet affairs committee.

The law states that space programs must “contribute to establish a safe society, remove various threats to life of the people and ensure peace and safety of international society, as well as the national security of our country.”

Taiwan leader: Democracy key to relations with China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan’s new president on Tuesday tied improved political relations with rival China to Beijing’s progress toward democracy—a condition the communist superpower may have trouble meeting.

The comments by Ma Ying-jeou in his inaugural address took place on a day of dramatic developments in Taipei, as prosecutors announced they were launching a corruption probe into outgoing President Chen Shui-bian’s handling of a spe-

cial presidential fund.

The inquiry concerns allegations that Chen was involved in the embezzlement of some \$484,000 from the fund, which is used to promote Taiwan’s foreign diplomacy.

Ma’s elevation to the presi-

dency represents a clear break from the eight-year administration of Chen, whose confrontational pro-independence policies often led to friction with Beijing—and with the United States, Taiwan’s most important foreign partner.

rains and triggering floods. The National Disaster Coordinating Council said in Wednesday’s report that a total of 16 people have been injured and one is missing.

Philippine police officers fatally shoot suspect who allegedly killed 8

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police on Tuesday fatally shot a man who allegedly killed eight people and wounded six others, most of them children, in a shooting spree south of Manila. A regional police commander

said. Chief Superintendent Ricardo Padilla said Bernabe de Fiesta refused to surrender and engaged officers in an exchange of fire with the same M-16 automatic rifle he allegedly used while going house to house the previous day in Calamba town in Laguna province. “We consider the case closed,” he said. Quoting a witness, Padilla said de Fiesta, who worked on a vegetable farm owned by his uncle—retired police Sgt. Florencio Peria—said he was upset that people in his village of Hormalan were making fun of him.

Philippine left-wing congressman dies after falling from ladder

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Left-wing Philippine lawmaker and veteran labor leader Rep. Crispin Beltran died Tuesday

from head injuries after falling from a ladder at his house. He was 75. Beltran led the country’s largest left-wing labor federation—the May One Movement—and was arrested in 1982 under late dictator Ferdinand Marcos but escaped two years later and joined the underground anti-Marcos movement. He resurfaced after Marcos was ousted in 1986. Beltran had served as a congressman since 2001 and was a sharp critic of current President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. He joined three opposition attempts to impeach

Arroyo for alleged election cheating and corruption.

Beltran, who suffered from hypertension, was again arrested in February 2006 and detained in a hospital for more than a year in connection with a failed coup. The Supreme Court dismissed the charges against him in July 2007 and ordered his release. Cherry Clemente, secretary general of Beltran’s party, Anakpawis, said Beltran slipped while climbing a ladder to fix his roof and fell 14 feet (4.2 meters), his face hitting the ground.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Death toll in Philippine storm up to 37

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine disaster agency says the death toll from a tropical storm that battered the northern Philippines over the weekend has risen from 12 to 37. Most of the victims were hit by iron sheets or falling debris blown off houses after Tropical Storm Halong made landfall Saturday in Pangasinan province, northwest of Manila. It sliced through the mountainous region with peak winds of up to 65 mph, dumping

rain and triggering floods. The National Disaster Coordinating Council said in Wednesday’s report that a total of 16 people have been injured and one is missing.

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World

Diplomats say UN probe of Iran nukes a failure

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Iran has stymied the latest U.N. attempt to investigate allegations that it tried to make nuclear weapons, diplomats said Tuesday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. nuclear watchdog, will acknowledge it was unable to follow up on the allegations in a report to be presented as early as Friday to its 35-nation board, two diplomats told The Associated Press.

IAEA chief Mohamed El-Baradei expressed optimism a month ago when he announced that Iran agreed to review intelligence collected by the U.N. agency, just a few weeks after Tehran had declared the books closed on any attempt to look into its alleged nuclear arms programs.

"By the end of May we will be in a position to get the explanation and clarification from Iran" about the allegations, ElBaradei said then, describing Tehran's apparent change of heart as a "positive step."

But the diplomats said Iran had again rejected the evidence presented by agency officials as

bogus and refused to hold further discussions or allow U.N. experts to check into the charges.

In February, IAEA Deputy Director General Olli Heinonen detailed the intelligence—and the results of the agency's own investigations—to the board at a closed door presentation.

Those present at the meeting said the material included an Iranian video depicting mock-ups of a missile re-entry vehicle. They said Heinonen suggested the component was configured in a way that strongly suggested it was meant to carry a nuclear warhead.

A senior diplomat at the meeting also said other documentation showed the Iranians experimenting with warheads and missile trajectories where "the height of the burst ... didn't make sense for conventional warheads."

On Monday, ElBaradei said again that "we haven't seen indications or any concrete evidence that Iran is building a nuclear weapon." But a senior diplomat familiar with the IAEA's work recently told AP that leading agency experts considered much of the intelligence



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad looks on, during a press conference in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, May 13, 2008.

AP

forwarded by the U.S. and other nations compelling evidence that Iran engaged in secret nuclear arms work.

The two diplomats, who agreed to discuss the new report Tuesday only if granted anonymity because the information

was confidential, said Iranian officials reiterated during the monthlong probe their longtime position that all of the nuclear

activities—including nearly two decades of clandestine work discovered only six years ago—was peaceful.

WORLD BRIEFS

Top ETA official arrested

MADRID, Spain (AP)—Spanish and French authorities arrested one of the highest-ranking members of the armed Basque group ETA, a Spanish police spokesman said Wednesday. Javier Lopez Pena was detained in the southern France coastal city of Bordeaux late Tuesday along with three other alleged ETA members, a police spokesman said, speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with police regulations. The arrests were made in a joint operation by French and Spanish police. French authorities were not immediately available for comment. The official said Lopez Pena played a key role in the ETA's decision to end a cease-fire last year. The group was blamed for killing a policeman in a massive car bombing last week in a Basque village. It claimed another car bombing Sunday near Bilbao—the latest in more than 20 attacks by ETA since it ended the cease-fire in December 2006 after peace talks failed.

Fire breaks out at Berlin Philharmonic

BERLIN (AP)—A fire Tuesday sent plumes of acrid gray smoke pouring from the roof of the Berlin Philharmonic's landmark home, where musicians and firefighters rushed to save precious instruments. The blaze broke out beneath the roof of the building over the main concert hall, which seats 2,440 and is famed for its extraordinary acoustics. There were no injuries and the fire was brought under control after about five hours. Welding work had been carried out on the building's tin roof earlier in the day, and police were investigating that as a possible cause, police spokeswoman Heike Nagora said. Firefighters cut open parts of the tent-shaped roof, some 160 feet above the ground, to get at the fire after being called to the scene shortly before 2 p.m., senior fire officer Karsten Goewecke said.

Polisario rebels celebrate 35th anniversary

TIFARITI, Western Sahara (AP)—It was a military parade but there were no fighter jets, tanks or missiles. Neither was there much public or press. But Polisario Front rebels based in the desolate lands on the edge of the disputed Western Sahara territory are used to that. On Tuesday, some 8,000 rebels, armed with AK-47 assault rifles, staged a marching procession in this dusty outpost to mark the 35th anniversary of the organization, which was founded to fight for the independence of the Western Sahara. Watching were a dozen or so journalists, most from Spain, and some 300 local people, support group representatives and delegates from a handful of countries, such as Cuba and Algeria, who back the Polisario cause.

Bush apologizes over US soldier's Quran shooting

BAGHDAD (AP)—President Bush has apologized to Iraq's prime minister for an American sniper's shooting of a Quran, and the Iraqi government called on U.S. military commanders to educate their soldiers to respect local religious beliefs.

Bush's spokeswoman said Tuesday that the president apologized during a videoconference Monday with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who told the president that the shooting of Islam's holy book had disappointed and angered both the Iraqi people and their leaders.

"He apologized for that in the sense that he said that we take it very seriously," White House press secretary Dana Perino said. "We are concerned about the reaction. We wanted them to know that the president knew that this was wrong."

It was the highest level in

a string of statements by U.S. officials trying to soothe anger over the shooting incident, particularly among Sunni Arabs who have become key allies in the fight against insurgents.

The U.S. military said Sunday that it had disciplined the sniper and removed him from Iraq after he was found to have

US 'heartbroken' that terrorists use children

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The top American envoy at the U.N. slammed terrorists and insurgents for using children to carry out violence, but said Tuesday that the U.S. tries to provide special treatment when it detains those young people.

U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad's comments followed the release of a U.S. report that 2,500 people under age 18 have been detained, almost all in Iraq, since 2002 during the war on terror. Some had been held for periods up to a year or more.

"We are heartbroken that terrorists and extremists use kids for their campaign of violence," said Khalilzad, a former U.S. ambassador to both Iraq and Afghanistan who has been close to the scenes of the detentions.

The report said the exact age of the juveniles is not known. The majority are believed to be

16 or 17 years old. In the United States a 17-year-old can enlist in the U.S. army, with parental consent.

It said that the U.S. military is currently holding about 500 juveniles in detention centers in Iraq, and has about 10 detained at the U.S. base at Bagram, Afghanistan.

"It is very unfortunate that insurgents, terrorists use children, young people, in their campaign of violence," he said. "Because of that we've had to detain young people who should be in school learning and preparing for a productive life but are being used for these purposes."

The envoy said the American government understands the needs of children. "We do our best to have special treatment of them in terms of their psychological need, their educational needs, and keep them apart from adults, and work with their communities and their families."

against Islam in Europe and elsewhere have sparked violent protests, and American officials appeared eager to contain the outrage.

Al-Maliki, a Shiite, told Bush

of the "disappointment and anger of the people and government of Iraq over the soldier's disgraceful action," according

Iraqi court resumes trial of Saddam's lieutenant Tariq Aziz

BAGHDAD (AP)—Tariq Aziz, one of Saddam Hussein's best-known lieutenants, accused the Shiite-led government of seeking revenge during a trial Tuesday over the executions of dozens of Baghdad merchants in 1992.

Aziz told an Iraqi court, which resumed hearing the case against

him and seven co-defendants, that he was proud of being a member of Saddam's Sunni-dominated Baath party and serving under the former dictator.

But chief prosecutor Adnan Ali said Aziz and his co-defendants, who include Saddam's ailing cousin known as "Chemical Ali," were responsible for the mer-

chants' deaths and urged the court "to issue the suitable punishment that will ease the hearts of widows and oppressed ones."

Aziz, the only Christian in Saddam's mostly Sunni Muslim regime, became internationally known as the dictator's defender and a fierce American critic after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the

subsequent 1991 Gulf War.

He was later promoted to deputy prime minister and often represented Iraq at the United Nations and other international forums. Just weeks before the U.S.-led invasion, Aziz met with the late Pope John Paul II at the Vatican in a bid to head off the conflict.

Environment

What does science tell us about our Northern Islands coral reef ecosystems?

Amongst all of the grit and glamour that has been posted in the local media regarding the northern islands monument there has been little scientific insight offered. This, despite the numerous voyages that local and federally sponsored scientists have embarked upon to gather data, represents my concerns as a marine biologist. Here, I will try to offer as much insight as I am able to, picking upon the dataset that I collected over the past 5 years, 10,234 individual coral colony measurements from the nearshore reef slopes, 0 – 50 ft. deep, along the nine emergent islands.

The situation is best put into perspective with some preliminary background information about two highly influential scientists, Edward O. Wilson and Robert MacArthur, who taught the world a great deal about islands and the distributions of biological species. They first taught us that there are three major drivers of species diversity along a chain of islands: 1) the size of the island, 2) the rate that new species immigrate into the local species pool, and 3) the rate of extinction. The smaller islands that are furthest

away from the replenishing larval sources hold fewer species, while the number of species rises when more space becomes available for plants and animals to find happy homes in. In the case of the northern islands, the source of replenishing larvae comes locally from the standing stock of reproducing individuals, as well as regionally from the islands east of us, most nota-

names. This is a good approximation for how much shallow coral reef exists. For a proxy to extinction rates I substituted volcanic disturbance events that have occurred infrequently along the island chain over the past century.

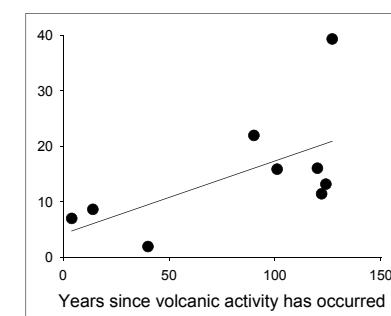
Several graphs are presented below to illustrate some of the key findings. First, there exists a tight relationship between island perimeter and the number of species of coral and coral reef associated plants and animals. The first graph shows Uracus (blue), the smallest, northernmost island holds the lowest diversity, while Maug and Pagan (brown and green), two of the three biggest islands, hold the greatest diversity.

So why should we care about the number of species that exist on these islands anyway? One very clear result of modern ecological studies is a relationship between resiliency, or the ability to recover following a disturbance, and diversity. The more species you have the better equipped you are to deal with unexpected change, because you have more functional redundancy (more kinds of algae eating fish, photosynthesizing corals, and filter feeding invertebrates).

This is similar to the common flu passing through a population; some individuals get sick and others do not. The organisms (people) that remain healthy continue to maintain the ecosystem

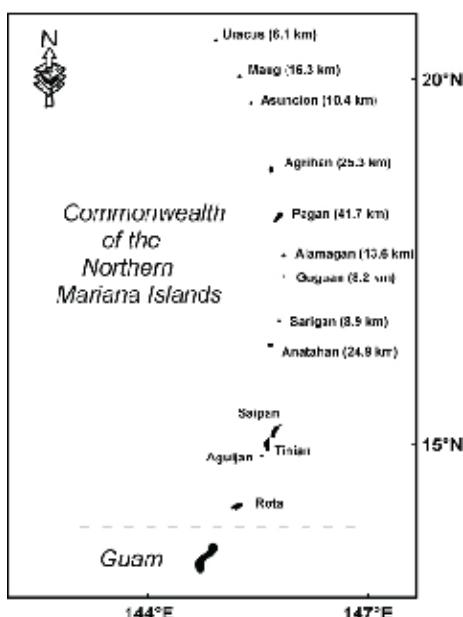
services (business and society).

So what are the impacts of disturbances? Disturbances come in many shapes and forms, I will start with the most obvious one, volcanic activity. Eruptions have been occurring along our northern islands chain for hundreds-of-thousands of years, but just in the last century were records kept. I've found that volcanic disturbances have their strongest impacts upon species diversity and the amount of living coral. The second graph shows that live coral increases on islands where volcanic activity has not recently occurred. But more than just coral coverage, the predictable relationship between island size and species diversity is also impacted by volcanic disturbances. The third and final graph shows that the number of coral species expected to be present on each island, based upon its size, is reduced by volcanic disturbances. Anatahan and Pagan (blue and green), where the two most recent eruptions have been documented, show the greatest reduction in diversity.

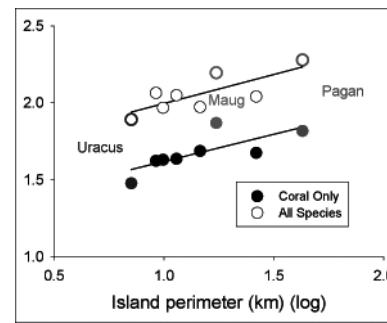


In addition to volcanic disturbances, typhoons and outbreaks of coral eating starfish are two additional disturbances that can alter our reef ecosystem. In the winter and spring of 2003 and 2004 our data found significantly higher populations of coral eating starfish on CNMI's reefs compared with all other years during this decade. These animals prey upon live corals and leave only dead skeleton footprints. Coral colony measurements detected similar negative impacts between Maug and Saipan, however recovery has been significantly different. By 2007 the average coral colony size had increased to pre-disturbance levels at Maug while at LaoLao Bay colony sizes still have not. Diversity too, has followed the same patterns. While some questions linking causes and effects will always remain, it is clear that the clean waters and functionally redundant food webs present on Maug have aided coral reef recovery. In culmination, this information sets the stage for desirable resource management options in the NMI.

In the northern islands the most desirable, and economically important reefs thrive on big islands where volcanic activity is currently low. Thus, it is not surprising that Maug, the third largest island without recent volcanic activity, holds the largest and most diverse coral and reef associated invertebrate assemblages. Clearly Maug deserves enhanced consideration for management, but strategies are best focused at the island level, where the most significant ecological relationships exist. In an ideal world management strategies should match the scale of ecological relationships. In the NMI the data show no relationship between individual watersheds, land-use, or feral animal populations and coral assemblages in the NMI. Its not that these forces don't alter coral reefs, just that their impact is small in comparison to volcanic activity and the availability of habitat (the amount of coral reef). As such, the data suggest that management options that encompass entire islands, such as MPA's, are ideal for the volcanic island chain. Exactly which islands and what type of 'island-based' management is subject to debate, however, it is my hope that this information would be used by the people, government, and businesses before making important decisions that will dictate the future health of CNMI's coral reefs.



bly the Marshall Islands. Given this information, I guessed that island size and extinction rates would be the strongest drivers of species diversity in the NMI, as immigration rates are relatively similar throughout the island chain. Island perimeter is easy to measure and is shown on the map next to the island



Learning to live green

The term to learn these days is carbon footprint. A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases being produced. They are measured in units of carbon dioxide (CO₂). This gas is the biggest contributor to global warming.

All over the world, people have become attentive to their environment and are making efforts to live green. Living green doesn't mean having a green yard or owning a green house, it's about implementing a lifestyle that treads as lightly on the planet as possible in an effort to help stop global warming and conserve our limited natural resources.

Living a green lifestyle means involving the use of less energy, consuming less stuff and making more eco-friendly choices about everything from food to transportation to fashion. Everyone can put into practice simple changes that can really make a difference to the sustainability of our planet.

Most everything we do uses energy, whether we're cooking a meal, taking a shower or using an air conditioner to stay cool. Energy is simply the ability to do work. It comes from all different types of sources but mainly in the forms of heat and light.

Green living is as easy as switching from a regular light bulb to a compact fluorescent light

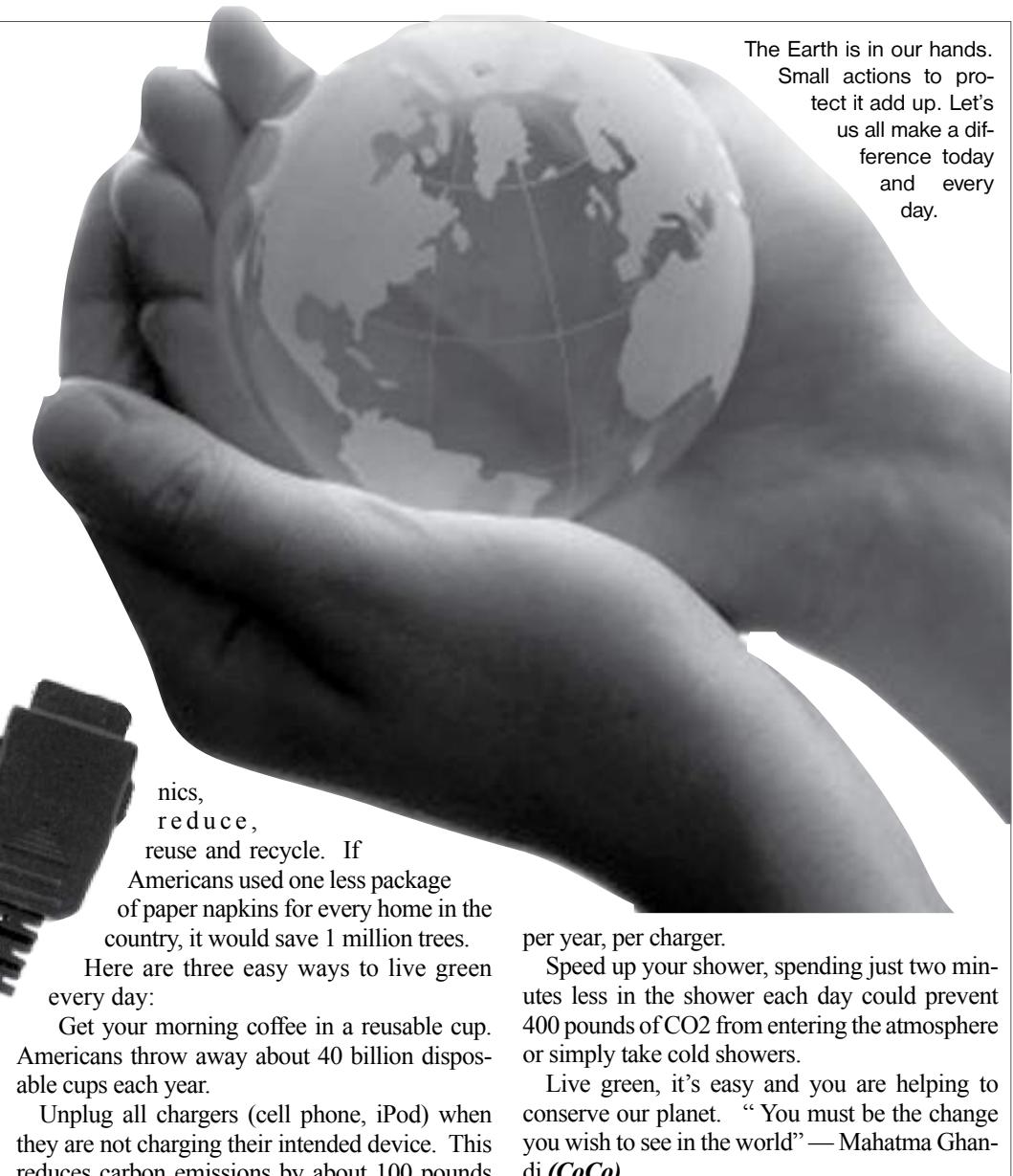
bulb. Studies have shown that if every household in the U.S. replaced one bulb with an energy bulb, it would have the same impact as removing one million cars from the road.

There are many ways to live green like recycling in your home, start with cans and plastic bottles. Buy foods that are locally produced, they help build sustainable communities. When you go shopping, bring your own reusable bags and avoid the use of plastic bags. Plastic bags take 450 years to breakdown. Unplug appliances that are not in use like your TV, radio or computer.

Next time you travel, reduce 10 pounds of your luggage weight. For every passenger that would mean 3.5

million fewer tons of CO₂ emissions per year. When you really think about it, bringing five extra pairs of shoes than you need burns fuel.

When you host parties or have pic-



nics, reduce, reuse and recycle. If Americans used one less package of paper napkins for every home in the country, it would save 1 million trees. Here are three easy ways to live green every day:

Get your morning coffee in a reusable cup. Americans throw away about 40 billion disposable cups each year.

Unplug all chargers (cell phone, iPod) when they are not charging their intended device. This reduces carbon emissions by about 100 pounds

per year, per charger.

Speed up your shower, spending just two minutes less in the shower each day could prevent 400 pounds of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere or simply take cold showers.

Live green, it's easy and you are helping to conserve our planet. "You must be the change you wish to see in the world" — Mahatma Gandhi (CoCo)

Life & Style

Winner is crowned on 'Dancing With the Stars'



In this image released by ABC Kristi Yamaguchi and her professional partner Mark Ballas, were crowned champion of "Dancing with the Stars," in the two-part season finale, beginning Monday, MAY 19 and concluding Tuesday MAY 20, 2008.

Cowell: Archuleta wins 'Idol' in a 'knockout'

David Archuleta brought his A-game on Tuesday's final sing-off, earning the praise of judge Simon Cowell, who called it a "knockout" performance.

If it were up to Cowell, he'd hand the doe-eyed teen from Murray, Utah, the "Idol" title right now. Archuleta, established early on as the one to beat in the Fox show's seventh season, out-sang competitor David Cook, performing as if it were his last gig on earth.

Cook, 25, of Blue Springs, Mo., delivered solid performances, rocking and emotional as usual—but didn't measure up to his 17-year-old



In this image released by FOX, American Idol contestant David Archuleta performs, Tuesday, March 4, 2008, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kristi Yamaguchi came into the "Dancing With the Stars" finale with a perfect score and left with the mirrorball trophy.

The figure skater's victory Tuesday over pro football star Jason Taylor broke the string of four consecutive male winners. She was the first woman to claim the "Dancing" crown since the show's opening season.

"This is definitely for all those women out there to continue to be strong," Yamaguchi said after the show, hoisting the trophy above her head.

Taylor said he was surprised to make it to the finals and "thrilled" to come in second.

"If you've got to finish anywhere besides first, second place is the best you can get," he said, adding that Yamaguchi deserved to win. "And we got a perfect score to go out with, so I'm happy. I'm done dancing."

Cristian de la Fuente was the first to be eliminated during the season finale. The actor, who ruptured a tendon in his biceps while performing on the show April 28, delayed the surgery necessary to repair it so he could continue on the hit ABC dance-off.

Like Taylor, he said he was

just happy to reach the finals.

"That was our objective," he said. "Kristi is the best dancer ever. It was impossible to beat her. We're happy that she won. This is so good for the show."

Yamaguchi was clearly the most talented dancer on this season's show, but it's been hard for women to take the "Dancing" crown. With a viewership that's 75 percent women—a fact not lost on Taylor and de la Fuente, who never shied from brazen displays of bare skin and

sex appeal—the hit ABC show still had plenty of suspense for the final episode.

"You obviously have to get the technique, but (also) compete with the personalities that all the boys have," Yamaguchi told The Associated Press after Monday's performances. "I think their smiles and their personalities melt hearts across the country."

Figure-skating champ Yamaguchi got a perfect score of 60 on Monday's show, and has

regularly topped the judges' scoreboard throughout season six. She and Taylor each earned perfect scores of 30 for their final dances on Tuesday's show.

But viewer votes count just as much, and the combination is what determines the winner.

Taylor landed in last place with 51 points Monday. His partner, Edyta Sliwinska, maximized Taylor's sex appeal—and perhaps his votes—by tearing off his shirt at the end of their final dance Monday.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

Gregorio Muña Quitugua

Lovingly known as 'Tun Goru' was called to his eternal rest on Sunday, May 18, 2008.

Nightly rosary at Kristo Rai Church at 7:30 p.m. and daily Mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m.

Funeral Mass and burial will be announced at a later date.

Thank You very much.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

MAXIMINO KOTOMOR TAITANO

Known as "Bino" or "Max"

Born on October 20, 1939

Died on May 17, 2008 at the age of 68.

Predeceased By:

Wife: †Isabel Camacho Sablan Taitano

Son: †Maximino Sablan Taitano

Parents: †Pedro Roppul & Ana Kotomor Taitano

Stepmother: †Emerenciana M. Taitano

Father & Mother-in-Law: †Justo Concepcion Sablan & †Rosario Camacho Alepuyo

Stepfather-in-Law: †John Sumabal Alepuyo

Brother & Sister: †Julian Kotomor Taitano & †Maria Taitano Lieto

Step Brothers: †Vicente Amirez & †Silverio Amirez

In-Laws: †Marcelina Pua Taitano; †Vicente Iguel Lieto;

†Delores Sablan Alas-as; †Leon Santos Pinuela;

†Maria Camacho Sablan; †Mryna Amirez; †Donicia Amirez

Son-in-Law: †Santiago Magofna

Survived by Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren:

Edward & Virginia Sablan (Andrew/Sayuri (Isabella & Andrea), Vangie, Kristy/Jay)

Carmen Taitano Andon & Samuel Andon

Rowina Sablan Taitano

Teresita Aldan & Children

Elveristo & Lilly Igisomar & Children

Reared Children:

Jeremy Muna Alepuyo & Monica Attao (Elias James)

Yubert Muna Alepuyo & Maile Iakopo (Morgiana & Patricio)



Brother/Sister-in-Law:

Cristin & Maria Amirez, Serafin Amirez, Estefania Amirez, Lucia & Herman Guerrero, Victoria & Jesus Deleon Guerrero, Cristito & Melinda Alepuyo, Delgadina Alepuyo, Andrea & Tim M. Thornburgh, Leonora A. Quitugua; Martina & Ace Uchel, Aurelia & Max Kretzers, Patricio & Bernadita Alepuyo

Survived by numerous Cousins, Nephews & Nieces.

Nightly rosary is said at 7:30pm at Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag. Maximino will be taken from CHC morgue on Saturday May 24, 2008 at 7:00am and will be escorted to the family residence in Tanapag. Mass will be at 11:00am on the same day at Santa Remedios Church followed by Christian Burial at Tanapag, Lower Base Cemetery.

Sex tape shown to jurors, court in R. Kelly trial

CHICAGO (AP)—Prosecutors played the sex tape at the center of R. Kelly's child pornography trial in open court Tuesday, just hours after opening statements in which they accused the R&B singer of choreographing and starring in a video featuring "vile, disturbing and disgusting sex acts" with an underage girl.

The jurors, who took feverish notes during opening statements, sat motionless while the video played. Their eyes fixed on a 4-by-4-foot monitor just outside the jury box. In the courtroom, the lights were dimmed and blinds drawn across windows. There were several other monitors in the room, including one facing the crowded gallery. A grim, intent Kelly watched the whole video on a small monitor placed on the defense table, only occasionally averting his

eyes. At times, the 41-year-old rocked in his chair or rested his chin in his hand.

Before putting the tape into a videocassette player, a prosecutor walked across the stately courtroom, held it out for the defense team to see and entered it into the record as "People's Exhibit No. 1."

The roughly 27-minute homemade video shows a man having sex with a young female, who is naked for most of the recording—except for a necklace with a cross dangling from it.

At the start of the videotape, the man hands the female money and she mouths the words, "Thank you." She is often blank-faced, impassive. The man speaks to the female in a hushed, monotone voice, and she calls him "Daddy."

Songs from the Spice Girls

and Backstreet Boys blare from a radio. The female dances—the man out of view. Back in view, he has sex with her. The man walks up to the camera to adjust it a few times, but his face is often obscured.

As she dances, the female urinates on the floor. Near the end of the video, the man urinates on the female.

Prosecutors say the man in the video is Kelly, and that the female is a girl who was as young as 13 years old when the tape was made between Jan. 1, 1998, and Nov. 1, 2000.

The singer, who has pleaded not guilty, faces up to 15 years if convicted.

During opening statements in the long-delayed trial, Cook County prosecutor Shauna Boliker warned jurors they would have to watch shocking video and that



AP

R&B musician R. Kelly arrives at the Cook County building in Chicago, Ill., for the first day of opening arguments for his child pornography trial Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

"the case will unfold before you frame by disgusting frame."

"You will see the sex acts he commands her to do," said Boliker, who referred to Kelly by his birth name of Robert Kelly. "Acts you have never seen before. Vile, disturbing and disgusting sex acts, actions that were choreographed, produced and starred in by Robert Kelly."

Kelly often looked strained, even worried during opening statements, his mouth drawn tight as he hunched forward on a leather-backed chair—frequently appearing to study jurors' faces.

Minutes after Boliker concluded, defense attorney Sam Adam Jr. paced the room and often raised his voice in his opening statements, telling jurors with emphasis that Kelly was not the man on the tape. He also called the video's origins into question and said the female who authorities allege is depicted on the tape is not that person at all.

"You know what they have to connect Mr. Kelly to this tape?" he asked the jurors, pausing. "Nothing."

The 23-year-old woman prosecutors say was a minor at the time of the taping also denies that she's the person on the video.

The trial has been delayed repeatedly since the tape was mailed to the Chicago Sun-Times in 2002. The newspaper turned it over to authorities, and Kelly was indicted later that year.

Boliker alleged the singer took advantage of the inherent trust children place in adults, and the female on the tape performed acts that Kelly "commanded" her to perform.

Boliker told jurors the state will not call the alleged victim to the stand, but she did not explain why.

Can Fly," and is also known for such songs as "Bump N' Grind," "Ignition," and "Trapped in the Closet," a multipart saga about the sexual secrets of a lively and ever-expanding cast of characters.

Also Tuesday, jurors heard from retired Chicago police investigator Dan Everett, who said he and his partner were sent to the Sun-Times building in February 2002 after a reporter received a VHS videotape the newspaper wanted to turn over to police.

Everett told jurors what he and his partner witnessed on the sex tape, but he also testified that he knew the female depicted in it was an underage girl because he had interviewed her as part of an earlier investigation.

At that point, Cook County Judge Vincent Gaughan called a sidebar outside the jury's presence and threatened to declare a mistrial because Everett had been instructed not to use the word "investigation."

Everett did not say what the previous investigation involved.

Gaughan scolded Everett, saying he'd made an egregious mistake that violated the judge's court order and said he would declare a mistrial if the word was used again in reference to the earlier interview.

Everett told the jury when it returned that he had interviewed the young female on Dec. 5, 2000, 14 months before he began investigating the videotape.

Jury selection finished last week with prosecutors and defense attorneys accusing each other of trying to stack the panel along racial lines. Eight of the seated jurors were white and four were black, and that remained the jury's racial makeup after a white female juror was replaced Tuesday morning by one of four alternates, a white male.

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Synopsis

Hurting down the track, careening around, over and through the competition, Speed Racer is a natural behind the wheel. Born to race cars, Speed is aggressive, instinctive and, most of all, fearless. His only real competition is the memory of the brother he idolized—the legendary Rex Racer—whose death in a race has left behind a legacy that Speed is driven to fulfill. Speed is loyal to the family racing business, led by his father, Pops Racer, the designer of Speed's thundering Mach 5.

Fri - Mon 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:45
Tues - Thurs 4:10 7:00

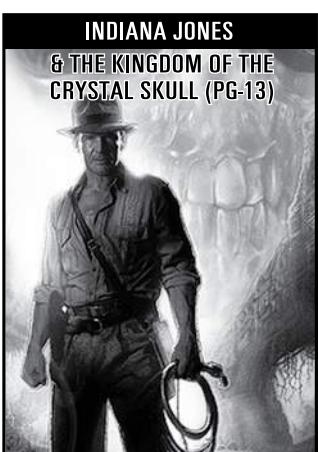


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Synopsis

As CEO of Stark Industries, the U.S. Government's top weapons contractor, billionaire industrialist and genius inventor Tony Stark has achieved celebrity status by protecting American interests around the globe for decades. Tony's carefree lifestyle is forever changed when his convoy is attacked following a weapons test he oversees and he is held hostage by a group of insurgents.

Fri - Mon 1:00 4:00 7:25 9:55
Tues - Thurs 4:00 7:25



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Synopsis

Set in the desert Southwest in 1957—at the height of the Cold War—Indy and his sidekick Mac have barely escaped a close scrape with nefarious Soviet agents on a remote airfield. Now, Professor Jones has returned home to Marshall College—only to find things have gone from bad to worse. His close friend and dean of the college explains that Indy's recent activities have made him the object of suspicion, and that the government has put pressure on the university to fire him.

Fri - Mon 1:30 4:25 7:15 10:00
Tues - Thurs 4:25 7:15

FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13)

Fri - Mon 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:35
Tues - Thurs 4:30 7:20

MADE OF HONOR (PG-13)

Fri - Mon 1:15 4:25 7:05 9:30
Tues - Thurs 4:25 7:05

BABY MAMA (PG-13)

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Tues - Thurs 4:15 7:30

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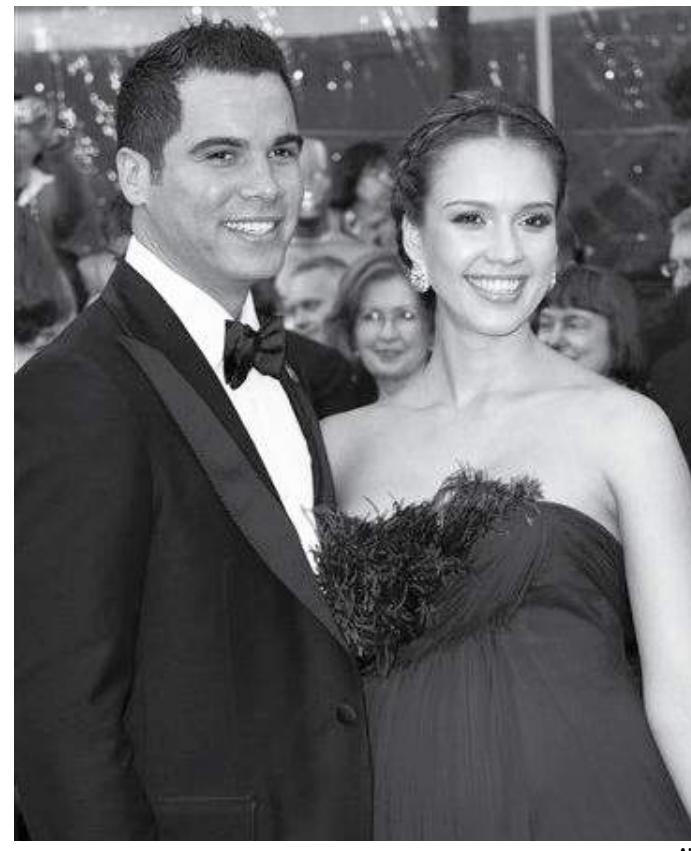
Jessica Alba quietly marries Cash Warren

NEW YORK (AP)—Sorry, guys. Jessica Alba's "taken" status is legal. The 27-year-old actress quietly wed producer Cash Warren on Monday, her publicist, Brad Cafarelli, said Tuesday in an e-mail to The Associated Press. Cafarelli didn't give further details.

The pair became engaged in late December following Alba's announcement that she's expecting a baby with Warren, 31. They met on the set of the 2005 film "The Fantastic Four," which costarred Alba and employed Warren as a director's assistant.

Her wedding, first reported Monday by People.com, was such a quiet affair that even her brother, Josh Alba, was apparently caught off-guard. When reached by Us Weekly magazine with the news, he responded: "My sister! I'm going to have to call her!"

When asked if Warren was good husband material, Alba said: "Well, he's my brother-in-law now!"



In this Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008 file photo, Cash Warren and Jessica Alba arrive at the 80th Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles.

Alba's recently appeared in "Awake," "Good Luck Chuck" and "The Ten." The sex symbol first gained fame as an action star on TV's "Dark Angel," then in films including "Fantastic Four" and "Sin City."

Besides a baby, Alba is also expecting two films this summer: "Meet Bill," in which she plays a lingerie saleswoman who helps turn life around for a loser, and "The Love Guru" with Mike Myers as a self-help weirdo trying to patch things up between a hockey star and his wife.

Alba charts high in men's magazines' lists of the "sexiest" women in the world. She was No. 1 to FHM readers last year, and dropped to No. 3 this year (with "Transformers" star Megan Fox claiming the top spot). Alba sued Playboy in 2006 for putting her picture on its cover without her consent, but dropped the action the following month when Playboy donated to two charities Alba supports and Hugh Hefner wrote a letter of apology.

Perfect dress for groom's mom fails to get bride's approval

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have recently gotten to know a lovely lady I'll call "Judith," whose son is being married in August. During a recent trip to Florida, Judith mentioned that she was looking for a dress to wear to the wedding and asked where she might find something nice. The next day, the woman she had spoken to arrived with a beautiful gown she had worn only once. The dress is lovely and of excellent quality. It fits and looks perfect on Judith.

After showing the dress to her future daughter-in-law, Judith received an e-mail from the young woman stating that the dress will "clash" with her ivory wedding dress and might look "dirty" next to it. (The dress is a light metallic gold.) She also told Judith that the purse was too gaudy.

Is it the bride's place to tell the mother of the groom what to wear?

—FRIEND OF JUDITH'S

DEAR FRIEND: Tell her? No. But to discuss her concerns with her future mother-in-law would have been acceptable. The bride-to-be's method of conveying her concerns to Judith was unfortunate. They both would have been better served had she picked up the phone and called.

DEAR ABBY: How do you politely and firmly discourage overzealous religious solicitors who go door-to-door? My mother's co-worker and her husband have been coming to our house for some time, but now that Mom has retired, they have increased the frequency of their "visits."

Every time they show up at our door, Mom and I tell them, "No, we're not interested," but they don't seem to understand the meaning of those words. They still keep coming, and when we're not home, they leave literature on our doorstep. It's becoming irritating, and we're losing our patience. This couple has been "visiting" us for at least five years. Any ideas?

—HOUNDED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

DEAR HOUNDED: What took you so long to write? The next time they show up, greet them with a smile and tell them, "Thank you, but I have already been saved." Then firmly close the door. If you find "literature" on your doorstep, toss it.

This question has arisen before. Years ago, a helpful reader wrote that a "courteous young man" had ignored the "No Solicitors" sign that was posted. When he offered her some religious literature, she responded, "You may give it to me only if you take some of MY literature for YOU to read," and handed him the Catholic Digest. The young man not only left in a hurry, but didn't accept the literature or leave any of his.

DEAR ABBY: My wife had a wheelbarrow with a steel wheel that had a tendency to sink into the ground when she was pushing a heavy load, making it difficult for her.

I recently won a large sum of money in a lottery, and to show my love and appreciation, I bought her a wheelbarrow with an inflatable rubber tire so it would be easier for her to push a heavy load. My wife has not talked to me since. What did I do wrong?

—BIG WINNER IN THE USA

DEAR BIG WINNER: Congratulations on your good fortune. What you "did" isn't the problem. What you DIDN'T do is what has upset your wife. You didn't ask her what she would LIKE to have. Do it now, and I predict she'll not only start talking, but you'll have trouble getting her to stop.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Ouch! Harrison Ford waxes chest to make a point

NEW YORK (AP)—Harrison Ford pulled a Steve Carell for a public service announcement: He gets his chest waxed. The 65-year-old star winces in apparent pain as a strip of hair is yanked from between his pecs for a PSA for Conservation International to raise awareness about the effect of deforestation on global warming.

The actor, who doesn't typically appear in such TV spots, sits on the board of directors of the Washington-based environmental organization.

Conservation International

CEO Peter Seligmann said Ford was game to do the 30-second spot, and approved of the waxing concept.

"I didn't have to talk him into anything," Seligmann said at a news conference Tuesday in Manhattan. "I was there when he filmed it. It really hurt. There's nothing about the expression on his face that was fake."

The classic scene from 2005's "The 40-Year-Old Virgin"—in which Carell screams out "Kelly Clarkson!" during his chest hair removal—was intentionally hi-

larious. Ford's message, however, is serious: "Every bit of rain forest that gets ripped out over there, really hurts us over here."

"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," co-starring Ford, Shia LaBeouf and Karen Allen, opens nationwide on Thursday.

In this May 18, 2008 file photo, Harrison Ford leaves the "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" premiere during the 61st International film festival in Cannes, southern France. AP



Eastwood says he won't be back as Dirty Harry



American actress Angelina Jolie and American director Clint Eastwood arrive for the premiere of the film "Changeling" at the 61st international Cannes film festival, on Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

CANNES, France (AP)—Clint Eastwood will not be back as Dirty Harry, but Angelina Jolie might want to give it a try. Eastwood was asked Tuesday at a news conference at the Cannes Film Festival if he would be reprising the role of Harry Callahan, the renegade cop of "Dirty Harry" and four sequels.

As he laid to rest the notion that he might revive Harry, Jolie chimed in: "I am."

"Dirty Harry and the 'Tomb Raider' will play it," Eastwood joked about Jolie, whose screen credits include the "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" flicks.

Eastwood was at Cannes for the premiere of his missing-child drama, "Changeling," starring Jolie. The 32-year-old actress was in Cannes for both "Changeling" and her animated comedy, "Kung Fu Panda," which premiered at the festival last week.

Eastwood, who turns 78 on May 31, went on to add that "Dirty Harry" would not be on the police department at my age, so we'll move on from that."

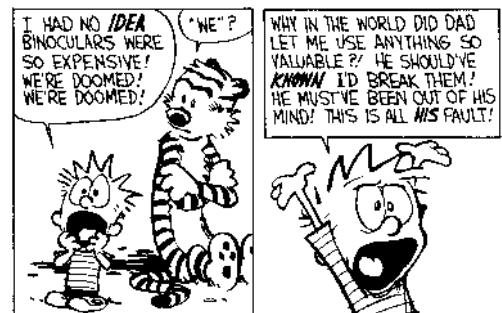
The Cannes lineup this year features a retrospective of Warner Bros. classics, including 1971's "Dirty Harry," which comes out in a new DVD edition with the other four films in the series on June 3.

The character has become an icon: a vigilante cop fighting bureaucracy on behalf of victims. For Eastwood, though, it was an exciting detective story first and foremost.

"Whatever reaction it had, it was great fun at that time," Eastwood said. "It was a fantasy role. You point a .44 Magnum at someone and say, 'Do you feel lucky?'"

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



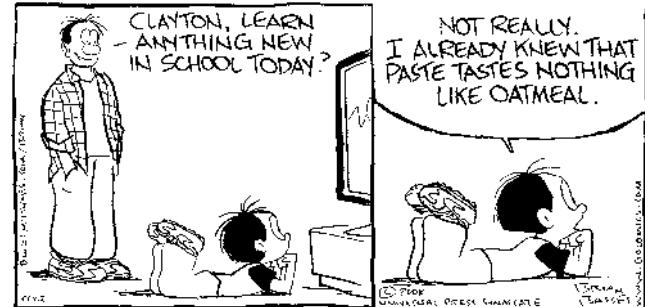
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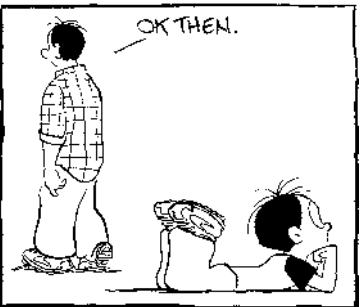
By Jim Davis



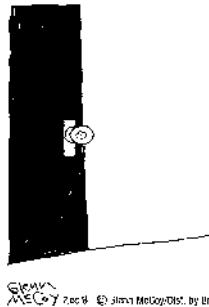
Adam@home



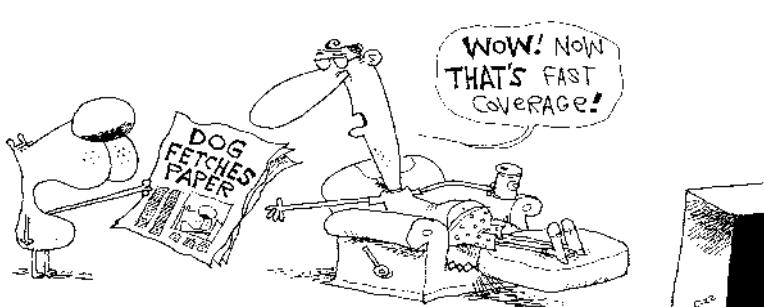
By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



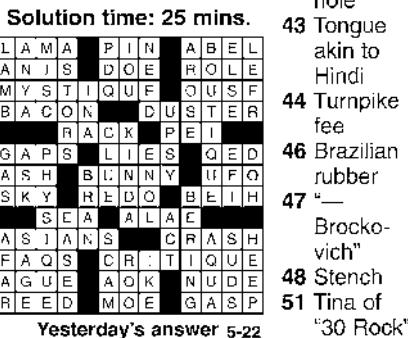
By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

| ACROSS | | DOWN | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 1 Medley component | 39 Stitch | 24 "Monty Python" opener | |
| 5 Airline initials | 40 Actor McBride | 25 Scull | 70 Peter Nero, 74 |
| 8 Luminary | 42 Sci-fi hybrid | 26 Trash-bag closer | |
| 12 Curved molding | 45 Big fish, often | 28 "Ferd-nand" cartoonist | |
| 13 Chit | 49 Bits and pieces | 29 Formal | |
| 14 Motion picture | 50 Frequently | 30 Scratch | |
| 15 Blueprint | 52 Piece of merchandise | 31 Agent | |
| 16 Always, poetically | 53 Actress McClurg | 36 Rental contracts | |
| 17 Descartes or Magritte | 54 Mainlander's memento | 37 Plant bristle | |
| 18 Regarding this document | 55 Great Lake | 38 TV audience member | |
| 20 Entertained | 56 Seeks damages | 41 That guy | |
| 22 Sports-caster Scully | 57 Old soap ingredient | 42 Homer Simpson's local watering hole | |
| 23 "Ugly Betty" network | 58 File crosser | 43 Tongue akin to Hindi | |
| 24 Speck | L A M A P I N A B E L | 44 Turnpike fee | |
| 27 Shelters closely | A N J S D O E R O L E | 46 Brazilian rubber | |
| 32 "... — a pudgy-tat!" | M Y S T I Q U E Q U S F | 47 Brokovich" | |
| 33 Lubricate | B A C O N D U S T E R | 48 Stench | |
| 34 Knock | R A C K P E I | 51 Tina of "30 Rock" | |
| 35 Colombo is its capital | G A P S L I E S Q E D | | |
| 38 Quite | A S H B U N N Y U F O | | |
| | S K Y R E D O B E I H | | |
| | S E A A L A E | | |
| | A S I A N S C R A S H | | |
| | F A Q S C R I T I Q U E | | |
| | A G U E A O K N U D E | | |
| | R E E D M O E G A S P | | |



Yesterday's answer 5-22

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Naomi Campbell, 38; Steven Patrick Morrissey, 49; Richard Benjamin, 70; Peter Nero, 74

Happy Birthday: Don't stop short of what you want to achieve this year. Additional burdens or responsibilities may be daunting but they will also be a learning experience. This isn't a year to ponder what to do—it is a year for action. Do as much as you can to advance, satisfy your personal and professional needs and open your mind to a whole new set of possibilities. Your numbers are 4, 9, 21, 26, 33, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You need to experience something new to revitalize your thoughts and ideas. Don't look back, have regrets or waste time lamenting over what went wrong. Push forward. ☀☀☀☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Being indecisive will work against you, contractually or financially. You must have a clear-cut view of the situation before you plunge in. Don't let anyone pressure you into doing something you haven't thought through. ☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may feel pressure from someone eager to discover your plans. Be completely honest and sure of what you are going to do before you proceed, or you may be held responsible for a change of heart, mind or direction. ☀☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be suspicious of anyone offering too much or something for nothing. Your life is apt to be disrupted by the actions someone takes. Watch your back when it comes to dealing with peers. ☀☀

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will prosper if you are willing to try things that are cutting edge. Don't limit

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Let your creative side shine through by showing your true talents. Someone will take an interest and help you develop what you have to offer. A few changes will make a big difference to the outcome of something you've wanted to pursue for some time. ☀☀☀☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't give too much away initially. Express your ideas and concerns with questions, rather than answers. You may be taken the wrong way if you get too emotional about what you want. Reevaluate your motives. ☀☀☀☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotional ups and downs can be expected when dealing with friends, relatives or neighbors. Keep your story straight and don't exaggerate and everything will be fine. The more energetic you are, the more you will impress others. ☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Follow the basic rules that have always worked for you in the past. Don't be fooled into thinking you need to do things differently. The more conservative you are in your approach, the better you will do. ☀☀☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put everything you've got into a job that needs to be done. Changes at home will be daunting at first but, in the end, will leave you much more relaxed and less stressed out. Don't let anyone dump his or her responsibilities in your lap. ☀☀

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will prosper if you are willing to try things that are cutting edge. Don't limit

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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yourself because of a lack of knowledge. Instead, ask questions and move ahead quickly so you can embark on a winning project. ☀☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be able to express yourself colorfully and attract the help and attention you need to solidify your position. A partnership may be under some stress but, if you talk matters through instead of avoiding key issues, you can rectify any problem and enhance the relationship. ☀☀☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you give in to your emotions, you will probably make a dreadful mistake that will be hard to reverse. Don't think with your heart. Expect things to backfire if you push someone in a direction unsuited to him or her. ☀

Birthday Baby: You are gracious and excitable—quick to react and resolve any problems. You are a doer who knows how to use what's offered to your advantage. You are open and wise.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | 13 | | | 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | | 16 | | | 17 | | | |
| 18 | | | 19 | 20 | 21 | | | | | |
| 22 | 23 | | | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 32 | | | | 33 | | | 34 | | | |
| 35 | | | 36 | 37 | | | 38 | | | |
| | 39 | | | 40 | 41 | | | | | |
| 42 | 43 | | | 44 | 45 | | 46 | 47 | 48 | |
| 49 | | | | 50 | 51 | | 52 | | | |
| 53 | | | | 54 | | | 55 | | | |
| 56 | | | | 57 | | | 58 | | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| 1 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 3 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 |
| 9 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 7 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| 4 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| 2 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 7 |

Difficulty Level ***

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle—horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward! Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FAT TUESDAY

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | S | B | P | A | R | T | Y | G | N | I | T | S | A | F |
| A | E | E | V | E | N | T | R | N | I | A | P | S | I | E |
| C | A | L | I | F | O | R | N | I | A | M | T | T | N | S |
| T | S | G | E | E | E | T | L | C | N | R | S | E | E | T |
| I | O | I | K | B | U | E | E | N | E | K | A | E | V | I |
| V | N | U | A | R | R | X | N | A | A | L | E | R | O | V |
| I | E | M | C | U | O | A | T | D | A | T | F | T | L | A |
| T | D | E | N | A | P | S | T | B | H | L | I | S | S | L |
| I | E | X | A | R | E | O | A | I | O | A | R | O | Y | C |
| E | W | I | P | Y | U | M | S | A | O | U | L | N | O | |
| S | S | C | A | R | A | T | T | R | D | N | O | A | A | S |
| G | I | O | I | R | O | S | E | G | N | S | C | M | T | |
| N | R | S | C | R | P | A | N | A | M | A | S | O | R | |
| O | T | H | I | H | A | T | S | T | H | G | I | L | E | |
| S | E | C | N | A | N | E | P | A | S | E | M | A | G | E |

CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution:
Foul language

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished
1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month,
near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

GARAGE/YARD SALE



Leaving The Island Sale.
Everything must go! Chalan
Kanoa beside the cemetery
across Bigboys. May 17-18 &
24-25, 2008. Call 235-4975.

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TO KAGMAN
MOBIL ↑
8am-1pm

← TO CAPITOL HILL
Children clothing, toys,
appliances, household
items, vases, baskets,
much much more.



Look for house (yellow)
with concrete fence

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W/ PHOTO
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apartment for long term lease or
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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure
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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete
7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per
3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto
and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits
your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)

- 3-Liner
- 5-Liner
- 3-Liner with picture
- 5-Liner with picture

COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)

| | |
|------|------|
| \$25 | \$35 |
| \$45 | \$55 |

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All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues
in each of two successive weeks.

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| 1st position | \$13.00 |
| 2nd position | \$5.00 |
| Succeeding positions | \$2.00 |

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that
include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the
same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication
date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will
come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to
date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to
date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No
refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day
of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue
date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper
headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

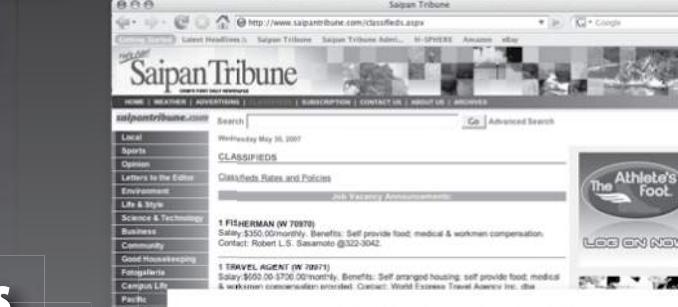
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate
sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales
Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads
will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the
right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan
Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and
to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or
name in this arrangement of letters.

Quack Quack
Cluck Cluck

Find today's solution in this section



Chicago Bulls win No. 1 pick in NBA draft lottery



SECAUCUS, N.J. (AP)—The Chicago Bulls expected to be in the playoffs, not the lottery. This will ease the sting a little. The Bulls won the NBA's draft lottery Tuesday night, giving them the right to choose between star freshmen Michael Beasley and Derrick Rose.

Coming off a miserable season and still without a coach, the Bulls vaulted from the No. 9 spot, where they had just a 1.7 percent chance of landing the top choice.

"After this season, we needed a break and I think we just got one tonight," said Steve Schanwald, the Bulls' executive vice president of business operations who represented them on the podium.

Chicago will almost certainly choose between Beasley, the Kansas State forward who averaged 26.2 points and an NCAA-best 12.4 rebounds, or Rose, the point guard who carried Memphis within minutes of the national title.

"We'll have an opportunity to get close to those guys. We'll really take a long look at what makes the most sense for our basketball team," executive vice president of basketball operations John Paxson said on a conference call. "Having the pick puts you in a unique position to make your team better."

"I certainly understand this was pure luck. Now it's our job to make the most of it."

The Miami Heat, who had



corps of young players, and we added Joakim Noah to that mix," Schanwald said. "Now we will get a chance to add another great player, a really great player. So it is very exciting for us."

Chicago got the No. 2 and 9 picks the last two years from New York as a result of the trade for Eddy Curry. Schanwald gave a fist pump early on when he realized he would move up, then took a deep breath and pumped both fists after beating out the Heat, represented by All-Star guard Dwyane Wade.

"Based on their performance and what they did in one season, both of them showed that they can help their team win," Riley said. "Both showed enough physical maturity to be dominant at times as a 19-year-old. All of the intangibles when it comes to competitive desire and when it comes to leadership and character and all of those things, we still have a lot of work to do in terms of a lot of players in the draft."

Nor will the Heat. President Pat Riley likes both players, but implied the pick could even be traded.

"Obviously the lottery as a precursor to the draft is a time of great hope," commissioner David Stern said.

The Bulls already had a busy offseason planned. Besides hiring a coach, they have to make contract offers to restricted free agents Luol Deng and Ben Gordon.

Now they've got another decision: Beasley or Rose?

"As I sit here tonight, what I think is again you've got two players who are different and unique," Paxson said. "One is

"I thought it was a waste of time. I thought coming here was an absolute waste of time. I knew I would get a great meal out of it, but I thought it was a waste of time," Schanwald said of the Bulls' chances.

"I'm on top of the world. I feel great. It's the most exciting day of my life."

Garnett leads Celtics past Pistons, 88-79



BOSTON (AP)—Not even a week of rest could prepare the Detroit Pistons for the hottest home team in the NBA. Kevin Garnett had 26 points and nine rebounds and Paul Pierce scored 22 points Tuesday night to lead Boston to an 88-79 victory in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals, the Celtics' 15th straight home win.

Kendrick Perkins had 10 rebounds and Rajon Rondo added 11 points and seven assists for Boston, which earned home court through the playoffs with a league-best 66-16 regular season record. The Celtics rode that advantage to seven-game series victories over Atlanta and Cleveland and held serve in the opener against Detroit.

Game 2 is in Boston on Thursday night.

Tayshaun Prince scored 16 points, and Antonio McDyess added 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Pistons.

Chauncey Billups, who missed most of the last three games of Detroit's Eastern Conference semifinal against Orlando because of a strained right hamstring, had nine points and two assists and went about 40 minutes between baskets.

Billups and the rest of the Pistons were able to rest the past week after they eliminated the Magic in five games to advance to the conference finals for the sixth straight year. They looked

a 25 percent chance of landing the top pick thanks to their NBA-worst 15-67 record, fell to second. The Minnesota Timberwolves will go third.

The NBA draft will be held June 26 in New York.

Chicago came into the season with high expectations after reaching the Eastern Conference semifinals last season. But the Bulls never recovered from a dismal start and finished 33-49. They fired coach Scott Skiles on Christmas Eve and have already decided not to retain interim coach Jim Boylan.

The Bulls failed to land the coach they wanted, Mike

D'Antoni, but the position became much more appealing Tuesday, giving them a chance to draft first for only the second time. The Bulls, who took Elton Brand No. 1 in 1999, could turn this time to hometown star Rose, who D'Antoni said was like Jason Kidd with a jump shot.

"Everybody was picking us to go to the conference finals last year, actually to the NBA finals because we won 49 games the year before and pushed the Detroit Pistons to six games in the second round last year and we have a very exciting good

Spurs' flight home delayed out of New Orleans

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs' departure from New Orleans after winning Game 7 of the Western Conference semifinals was delayed several hours after their plane had mechanical problems, the team said Tuesday.

The team could not find hotel rooms in the city, so the players had to sleep on the plane, team

spokesman Cliff Puchalski said.

"We slept on the plane—as much as you can sleep," Puchalski said. "We tried to keep some normal semblance of order."

The Spurs eliminated the Hornets 91-82 in Game 7 Monday night, then went straight to Los Angeles, where they play the Lakers in Game 1 of the conference finals on Wednesday.

Puchalski said the team slept on the plane with the mechanical problems before boarding another plane that was brought in from Minneapolis. The team took off about 6:30 a.m. Central time, Puchalski said, and landed in Los Angeles about four hours later.

The team was not practicing Tuesday.

Ex-NBA ref Donaghy deserves probation, lawyers say

NEW YORK (AP)—Disgraced basketball referee Tim Donaghy told investigators in the NBA betting probe that relationships among officials, coaches and players "affected the outcome of games," his attorney said. The league said the charges were unfounded.

Donaghy's attorney made the assertions in a letter filed in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn on Monday, in which he argued that his client should be sentenced to probation because he fully cooperated with prosecutors and has been undergoing treatment for his gambling addiction.

The attorney also suggested that Donaghy told investigators about the gambling activities of other NBA officials and about a referee that passed "confidential" information to an unidentified coach.

The attorney, John F. Lauro,

wrote that the U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District agreed to plea agreements with other defendants in the case, even though his client told investigators about NBA matters outside of the government's initial investigation. Lauro said the disparity in treatment could not be fully explained because prosecutors have "surrounded this case with a cone of silence."

The U.S. attorney's office said Tuesday it has no comment.

In a footnote, the attorney suggested that the NBA might have "pressured" the attorney's office "into shutting down this prosecution to avoid the disclosure of information unrelated to Tim's conduct."

"The letter filed today on Mr. Donaghy's behalf contains an assortment of lies, unfounded allegations, and facts that have been previously acknowledged,

such as the fact that certain NBA referees engaged in casino gambling in violation of NBA rules," said Joel Litvin, the NBA president for league and basketball operations, in a statement. "The letter is the desperate act of a convicted felon who is hoping to avoid prison time."

The veteran referee pleaded guilty last year to felony charges for taking cash payoffs from gamblers and betting on games he officiated.

While citing Donaghy's commitment to his family, charitable activities and positive feedback for his career as a referee prior to his "tragic fall from grace," his attorney said that his client's "aberrant conduct" can only be understood in the context of his gambling addiction, a "crippling disease, which prevented him from exercising complete rational self control."

Boston Celtics forward Paul Pierce (34) drives against Detroit Pistons forward Tayshaun Prince (22) in the second half during Game 1 of the NBA Eastern Conference finals in Boston, Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

rusty early, missing their first five shots while allowing Boston to take an 8-0 lead on Ray Allen's drive with 8:36 left in the first.

Billups hit a second-chance 3-pointer to end the drought and make it 8-3. But he did not make another field goal—he had four points and no assists in the first half—until there was 4:47 left

in the game.

The Pistons quickly erased the first-quarter lead, even going ahead 13-12. But they trailed 41-40 at halftime and scored just 17 points in the third quarter, 10 from Richard Hamilton, while the Celtics took a 69-57 lead on Eddie House's 3-pointer with 2 seconds left.

The attorney, John F. Lauro,

Mike Piazza decides to retire after 16 seasons



**B E V E R L Y
H I L L S , C a l i f .**

(AP)—Mike Piazza is retiring from baseball following a 16-season career in which he became one of the top-hitting catchers in history.

"After discussing my options with my wife, family and agent, I felt it was time to start a new chapter in my life," he said in a statement released Tuesday by his agent, Dan Lozano. "It has been an amazing journey ... So today, I walk away with no regrets."

"I knew this day was coming and over the last two years, I started to make my peace with it. I gave it my all and left everything on the field."

The 39-year-old Piazza batted .275 with eight homers and 44 RBIs as a designated hitter for Oakland last season, became a free agent and did not re-sign. He was not available to discuss his decision, according to Josh Goldberg, a spokesman for Lozano.

Taken by the Los Angeles Dodgers on the 62nd round of the 1988 amateur draft, Piazza became a 12-time All-Star, making the NL team 10 consecutive times starting in 1993.

"He was one of those hitters who could change the game with one swing. He was certainly the greatest-hitting catcher of our time, and arguably of all time," said Atlanta pitcher Tom Glavine, Piazza's former teammate on the New York Mets.

Piazza finished with a .308 career average, 427 home runs and 1,335 RBIs for the Dodgers (1992-98), Florida (1998), Mets (1998-05), San Diego (2006) and Oakland (2007).

"It's the end of a Hall of Fame career," Mets manager Willie Randolph said. "It was a privilege to manage him for the short time that I did."

Los Angeles Angels manager Mike Scioscia was a teammate of Piazza's on the 1992 Los Angeles Dodgers and remembered back to Piazza's first season in the majors and what he accomplished.

"To put yourself in the same ballpark with what a guy like Roy Campanella did is saying something and Mike is definitely up there with what Roy did," Scioscia said.

Piazza's 396 homers are easily the most as a catcher, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Carlton Fisk is second with 351, followed by Johnny Bench (327) and Yogi Berra (306).

"If I'm half the hitter he was, I'll have a pretty successful career," said Atlanta's Brian McCann, one of the top-hitting catchers currently in the majors. "He did a lot of great things for the catching position."

Piazza never had a great throwing arm but was praised by pitchers for his game-calling.

"You'd have to really go back and see Mike from the early days of trying to catch to where he ended up, the hard work he put in, the dedication he had to get good enough on the defensive end to where he could get his at-bats," Scioscia said. "He made himself into a guy who could go out there and catch and do the job he needed behind the plate."

Piazza thanked his family, teams and managers, some of his teammates—and even owners, general managers, minor league staffs and reporters.

"Within the eight years I spent in New York, I was able to take a different look at the game of baseball," Piazza said. "I wasn't just a young kid that was wet behind the ears anymore—I was learning from other veteran guys like Johnny Franco, who taught me how to deal with the pressures of playing in New York, and Al Leiter, who

knew what it took to win a world championship."

He did not bring up two of the more memorable moments in his career: When the Yankees' Roger Clemens beaned him on July 8, 2000, and when Clemens threw the broken barrel of Piazza's bat in his direction in Game 2 of the World Series that October. Clemens denied intent both times.

"Last but certainly not least, I can't say goodbye without thanking the fans," Piazza said. "I can't recall a time in my career where I didn't feel embraced by all of you. Los Angeles, San Diego, Oakland and Miami—whether it was at home or on the road, you were all so supportive over the years."

"But I

have to
say
that
my

time
with the
Mets wouldn't
have been the same without
the greatest fans in the world.
One of the hardest moments of
my career, was walking off the field
at Shea Stadium and saying goodbye.
My relationship with you made my time
in New York the happiest of my career
and for that, I will always be grateful."

the eighth inning to help the Florida Marlins take the opening game in a series between division leaders, beating Arizona.

The game was the Marlins' first against an opponent that has a winning record since May 1, and the widespread assumption is the team with baseball's smallest payroll will fold as the schedule becomes more difficult.

**Braves 6, Mets 1,
1st game**
**Braves 6, Mets 2,
second game**

At Atlanta, Tom Glavine retired his last 17 batters during his first post-New York appearance against the Mets and led the Atlanta Braves to another home win in the opener of a day-night doubleheader.

Then it was Jorge Campillo's turn in the nightcap, and he was even better than Glavine with six scoreless innings for his first major league win.

Phillies 1, Nationals 0
At Washington, Greg Dobbs' RBI pinch-hit single in the ninth inning gave Philadelphia the victory over Washington.

Dobbs picked up the game-winning RBI as a pinch hitter for reliever Tom Gordon. Dobbs

escaped a bases-loaded jam in

three hits, including his second career grand slam, a day after snapping a career-high 16-game hitting streak, as Houston downed Chicago.

Pence also had a single and a double and has 18 RBIs in the last 18 games.

Giants 6, Rockies 5

At Denver, Tim Lincecum pitched six effective innings, Rich Aurilia had three hits, including a solo homer, and San Francisco snapped a season-high six-game skid.

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Pence also had a single and a double and has 18 RBIs in the last 18 games.

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<b

Fight card released for Trench Warz VIII: Kontra

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Trench Warz fight organizer Cuki Alvarez has released a tentative fight card for next month's Trench Warz VIII: Kontra to be held at the Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym in Afetnas Square in San Antonio.

Alvarez, however, said that the fight cards are subject to change.

Thirteen fights are lined for the June 21 event with Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas staking his 6-1 record against the 8-2 mark of Jason "Rush" Tarkong in main event.

Before San Nicolas and Tarkong enter the cage, Jay "Taby" Muna will face Guam's Jess "The Spyderman" Taitano in a semi main event match. Eleven undercard fights are also scheduled for the day.

Team Zalaka's Lyle Guerrero will open up fight event when he tries to foil the mixed martial arts debut of June San Nicolas of Guam's Ground Fu. Trench Tech's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez will also test the debuting Brandon Camacho of Team Zogai in the next fight.

Andrew Sablan then will try to end a three-match losing streak when he takes on the dangerous "Badd" Brad Palacios in the third match while Ken "Kamakazi" Tanzawa will try to keep his unbeaten slate clean when he battles B.J. Taisacan of Team Haga.

"Kill" Bill Saures clashes with Darryl "The Derailer" San Nicolas in the event's lone heavyweight match, while Trench Tech's Slade "Rage" Adelbai collides with Team Haga's Neil "Lion Heart" Taisacan with "Big" Ron Chisato taking on Vince Palacios of Team Xtreme.

Team Choke Chain's Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo, fresh from a gold medal win in last week's Art Of War II All Island Grappling and Submission Tournament, will face Rob "Pitbull" Palacios in the eighth match of the night, while Maitai Charley of Team Marianas Elites takes on MMA veteran



JON PEREZ

"Badd" Brad Palacios mounts an opponent in this file photo taken in his previous Trench Warz fight that was held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan.

Bert "The Crusher" Cano will make his MMA debut against a still undetermined foe with Alvarez to announce his opponent before the day of the fight.

Ryan "The Dentis" Urquiza, who is one a favorite among Guam's MMA fans, will take on Joe Lisua of Team Zalaka before the Muna-Taitano match in the semi main event.

NMIFA sets tryouts for CNMI U14 National Team



The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is currently holding tryouts for its 14-and-under team

days, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 4:30pm to 6pm and every Saturday from 8:30am to 10am at the San Antonio Elementary School.

The tryouts are open for both new and experienced football players. Candidates must have a current passport that doesn't expire in six months and must

not turn 15 years old for the rest of the year.

The CNMI U14 National Team will head to Guam to play seven international matches from July 4 to 11 in U.S. territory.

National coach Nick Swaim said the team will be selected at the end of the month and play-

ers making the team will travel to Guam all-expenses paid to play the matches. All levels are welcome, with a good attitude and hard work ethic, according to Swaim.

If interested please contact Swaim at 235-0173 or show up to San Antonio Elem. School and introduce yourself. (NMIFA)

rero 14, Camacho 9, Norita 8, Takai 7, Salazar 4, Tudela 4, Castro 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-13, 31-26, 56-39, 72-52.

Referees: Noel Delos Santos and Dado Vistal.

19, Mendiola 8, Iramk 7, Itibus 4, Joab 4, Leon Guerrero 4, Kilion 2, Castro 1.

DPS 62 – Ayuyu 24, Ito 12, Saralu 9, Norita 8, Regis 6, Hocog 3.

Scoring by quarters: 11-11, 32-26, 46-46, 71-62.

Referees: Gilbert Espinosa and Jess Pabula.

Second Game

DOC 71 – Iguel 22, Quitugua

grams they must be played at the competitive level by at least 25 percent of the members of the Pacific Games Association.

Minogue is inviting each member federation to send their own views or recommendations to the executive board not later than June 30. the executive board will then present its review to the PGC in its annual general meeting on Sept. 2 in Rarotonga, the Cook Islands.

NMASA is set to hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, June 5, at 7pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

White in another email to

executive board also restructured the sports committee, which is set to also meet in Rarotonga on Sept. 19, with Jim Tobin of the Federated States of Micronesia as the new chairman.

Members of the sports committee are Niko Palomo of Samoa, the Cook Islands' Mark Brown, Jean Bernard Fukui of New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna's Manuele Tuia,a and Yvonne Mullins as a co-opted member.

CONTRASTING

From Page 28

for DOC.

Jerry Ayuyu paced DPS with 24 points with Joe Ito chipping in 12 more. Elias Saralu, Ned Norita, Servano Regis, and Carl Hocog scored nine, eight, six,

COUNCIL

From Page 28

the compulsory sports played in the Pacific the preferred position is that these sports will represent the top-ranked sports in order of priority of participation by PGAs over the last two major games," said Minogue.

He added that for optional sports to be considered inclusion on the Games' sports pro-

PBA accepts applicants to 2008 Rookie Draft

Deadline for Fil-foreign applicants July 8; locals August 12

The door is now open for all players interested to join the 2008 PBA Rookie Draft. (needed) the documents of Fil-foreign applicants.

The contestability period on the legitimacy of the Fil-foreign applicants will run from July 12 to August 11.

"The process of applying for the draft has been properly scheduled to make it easier for prospective rookie players as well as for the teams themselves. At the same time, we want everything to go smoothly when the league holds its annual Rookie Draft on August 31," said PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios.



Local players have until August 12 to tender their respective application and requirements while the final day of deciding the contestability of Fil-foreign applicants is on August 13.

The official list of candidates for the annual draft will be issued on August 15.

To provide the teams an insight of the type of player they intend to select in the draft, the official candidates will be required to take part in the three day expanded Rookie Camp from August 21-23 to showcase their skills and ability.

Among the possible rookie prospects for this year are highly-touted Fil-Ams Gabe Norwood and Solomon Mercado, reigning UAAP Most Valuable Player (MVP) Jerry Cruz, guard TY Tang, the Ateneo duo of Ford Arao and Chris Tiu, UE big man Mark Borboran and Harbour Centre's Beau Belga.

Last year, Welcoat Paints used the No. 1 overall selection on Toyota Otis center Joe Devance. (www.pba.com.ph)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

| W | L | Pct | GB |
|----|----|------|-------|
| 29 | 19 | .604 | – |
| 27 | 19 | .587 | 1 |
| 24 | 20 | .545 | 3 |
| 23 | 24 | .489 | 5 1/2 |
| 20 | 25 | .444 | 7 1/2 |

Central Division

| Chicago | 24 | 20 | .545 | – |
|-------------|----|----|------|-------|
| Minnesota | 23 | 22 | .511 | 1 1/2 |
| Cleveland | 22 | 23 | .489 | 2 1/2 |
| Kansas City | 21 | 24 | .467 | 3 1/2 |
| Detroit | 18 | 27 | .400 | 6 1/2 |

West Division

| Los Angeles | 27 | 20 | .574 | – |
|-------------|----|----|------|-------|
| Oakland | 24 | 23 | .511 | 3 |
| Texas | 22 | 25 | .468 | 5 |
| Seattle | 18 | 28 | .391 | 8 1/2 |

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

| Florida | 25 | 19 | .568 | – |
|--------------|----|----|------|-------|
| Atlanta | 24 | 21 | .533 | 1 1/2 |
| Philadelphia | 25 | 22 | .532 | 1 1/2 |
| New York | 22 | 21 | .512 | 2 1/2 |
| Washington | 20 | 27 | .426 | 6 1/2 |

Central Division

| Chicago | 24 | 20 | .545 | – |
|-------------|----|----|------|-------|
| Minnesota | 23 | 22 | .511 | 1 1/2 |
| Cleveland | 22 | 23 | .489 | 2 1/2 |
| Kansas City | 21 | 24 | .467 | 3 1/2 |
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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

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Junior netters show glimpse of CNMI's future



Russell Buenaventura eyes the ball as he prepares to make a backhand return in his semifinal match against James Camacho in the 18-and-under division.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saiplantribune.com
REPORTER

 Junior netters showed a glimpse of the CNMI's tennis future playing in several tightly fought matches in the 27th Annual Duty Free Shop Micronesian Tennis Tournament last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club courts.

Exciting matches were seen in the boys' 13-and-under singles where finalists Rafael Jones and Jake Lee had to work for their points before beating Christian Miller and Lucas Nutting to arrange a finals showdown.

Jones scored a 6-2, 6-4 upset against good friend and top seed Miller, while Lee needed a first set tiebreak before pulling off a 7-6, 6-1 decision against Nutting.

Other junior netters that won division titles were James Camacho and Mayuko Arriola (boys' and girls' 18-and-under), Ilia Corella (girls' 13-and-under), Christopher Cajigan and Tammy Ackerman (boys' and girls' 9-and-under).

In the doubles events, Jeff Race and Arriola became the tournament's two-time winners. Arriola added the mixed open/4.0 doubles crown to her singles title when she teamed up with Race in defeating Peter Loyola and Lydia Tan, 6-2, 6-2.

Loyola and Tan were coming off a 6-2, 6-7, 6-4 decision against Peter Loken and Vivian Lee in the semifinals.

Race added the men's open doubles trophy when he joined Loyola in beating Ji Hoon Heo and Nicolas Son, 6-3, 6-3.

Gary Ramsey and Nanding Cajigan needed three sets and a tiebreak in the third set before beating Richard Brostrom and Fr. Ryan Jimenez, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6, while Thea Minor and Cleofe Santos overcame a first set loss to score a 6-7, 6-0, 6-3 win over Theecel Minor and Tisha Ferrer in the women's doubles.

Other doubles winners were Dino Jones and Roy Pangilinan (men's Over-40), Dong Ik Jang and Joseph Jang (men's 3.0), and Yuri Hatamata and Kentaro Imaya (mixed 3.0/2.0).

The longest-running tennis tournament enters its second phase this weekend with competitions in the junior doubles and adult singles to be played at the PIC courts.



Emily Jones watches the direction of her shot in the 27th Annual DFS Micronesian Tennis Tournament.



Christian Miller in action in his match against Rafael Jones in the 13-and-under division.



Thea Minor is a picture of concentration as she prepares to make a forehand return in the 27th Annual DFS Micronesian Tennis Tournament.



Rafael Jones prepares to make a forehand return in Sunday's final day of competition in the 27th Annual DFS Micronesian Tennis Tournament at the Pacific Islands Club courts in San Antonio.



Neghar Rastguy prepares to chase the ball on the baseline in the 27th Annual DFS Micronesian Tennis Tournament.



Ilia Corella serves in her girls 13-and-under match in the 27th Annual DFS Micronesian Tennis Tournament.



Amy Arenovski watches the direction of her forehand return in her girls' 13-and-under match.



Junior netters show glimpse of CNMI's future

Junior netters showed a glimpse of CNMI's tennis future playing in several tightly fought matches in the 27th Annual Duty Free Shop-Micronesian Tennis Tournament last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club courts.

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Saipan Tribune

Sports

Chicago Bulls win No. 1 pick in NBA draft lottery

The Chicago Bulls expected to be in the playoffs, not the lottery. This will ease the sting a little. The Bulls won the NBA's draft lottery Tuesday night.



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28 THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Villafria looks forward to Mt. Fuji race

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ronald Villafria is no stranger to the local running and triathlon scene.

In fact, he has become a household name among members of the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation that a lot of them turned out to help him when he organized a fund-raising event on May 10.

The Fun Run was a fundraising event for Villafria's impending trip to Japan to join the **Climbing Mt. Fuji** Marathon or Fuji Tozan Race, which is composed of two legs.

The first leg of the Mt. Fuji Marathon is a 15-kilometer race to the fifth station of the mountain and a 21-km race all the way to the top. The final six kilometers of the race is also a trail run.

Villafria, who is celebrating his birthday today, considers the Mt. Fuji Marathon as the most challenging race that he will join. He keeps in shape by training almost daily running atop Mt. Tapochao, which is 1,554 feet or 474 meters.

Climate will be a huge factor for Villafria and his running mate Steve Pixley since Mt. Fuji is 12,388 feet (3,776m) or almost eight times the height of Mt. Tapochao.

Villafria said he and Steve Pixley, who will join him for the Mt. Fuji Marathon, plan to arrive one week ahead of the July 25 race in order to acclimatize themselves and study the course.

He said he is not expecting anything in his first attempt to conquer the Mt. Fuji Marathon. "I don't know what to expect in the race. I don't know the course. I just want to familiarize myself so I would know what to do the next time I join the race."

Villafria said he would not give it his all and will try to pace himself in the race. "I only want to finish the race and have some proof that I ran and was a finisher."

The Mt. Fuji Marathon is a 21-kilometer race where the first few hours are all punishing uphill and upward runs that would test the runners' endurance and stamina in the thinning air.

Villafria said he even met a number



JON PEREZ
Ronald Villafria will try to take on his biggest challenge when he joins Steve Pixley for the Mt. Fuji Marathon in July.

of Japanese tourists that joined this year's XTERRA that also completed the Mt. Fuji Marathon. "They told me that among the thousands of those who joined the race almost half of it or more than that could not finish the race."

Villafria helped an All-Filipino team composed of biker Rene Calage and swimmer Rezne Wong to sweep their own Pacific Islands Club Double this year as their relay team topped the 6th XTERRA Saipan Championship and 19th Tagaman Triathlon.

He also placed third in this year's 10K Fun Run in the 3rd Annual Saipan Marathon and 26th Half Marathon last January.

In December last year, Villafria single-handedly took on the almost 20-kilometer Christmas Island Relay run from Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi, finishing second to Team We Are Legend.

We Are Legend—composed of athletic stars Jacque Wonenberg, Matt Mancao, Nate Mateo, Reyllyn Spong, and Ken Yoshimoto—clocked in one hour, 33 minutes, and four seconds, while Villafria came in at 1:48.50.

The Pacific Games Council executive board is set to review its sports programs after every major Games.

This was announced by Council executive board director Andrew Minogue in an email sent to Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael A. White.



In the email, given to the *Saipan Tribune*, Minogue said the purpose of the executive board's review is to obtain a report from the sports committee for its consideration of each sports program.

"For the purposes of determining See COUNCIL on Page 26

Contrasting wins for Aguaguan, Corrections

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Aguaguan and Department of Corrections scored contrasting wins as action continued in the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Aguaguan held Department of Public Works/Procurement and Supply to 13 points in all quarters en route to a 72-52 dumping, while DOC used a late fourth-quarter rally to pull off a 71-62 win against Department of Public Safety.

Aguaguan and DOC joined opening day winners and last year's finalists Office of the Public Auditor and the Northern Marianas College-Proa. OPA won last year's title.

Jason Lizama scored 13 points to lead Aguaguan's spread-out offense with Patric Sablan adding 10 markers.

J.J. Atalig, Mike Deleon Guerrero, and J.P. Sablan combined for 23 points also for Aguaguan, which led at 56-39 heading into the final period.

John Guerrero was the lone DPW player who scored in double figures with 14 points, while Dave Camacho, Dennis Norita, and Ray Takai scored nine, eight, and seven each.

In the second game, Luis Iguel scattered 22 points to lead DOC to a 71-62 victory against a six-man DPS side in a low-scoring ballgame.

Tied at 46-all after three quarters, Iguel scored eight in the fourth period to help DOC escape with the win. Jeffrey Quitugua added 19 points also



JON PEREZ
Jerry Ayuyu, right, grabs the rebound as Taula Peter looks in this file photo from a previous government basketball league season.

'Silver Streak' entry forms available at DFS

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Runners and health enthusiasts can now pick up registration forms for the 15th Annual Tom Picarillo Memorial Fun Run at the Duty Free Shop Galleria front entrance.

Dubbed the Silver Streak the annual fun run/walk is held in memory of DFS Galleria's former president Picarillo, who served from 1979 to 1992. The race course follows the same route Picarillo, who is silver-haired, ran along Beach Road as he waved to passers by.

The event is slated at 6am on June 21 where the final day of registration will also take place. The course will be from DFS Galleria entrance in Beach Road up to the Sherman Tank at Quartermaster Road and back.

Registration forms can be picked up from 10am to 10:30pm everyday. The entrance fee is \$10 that includes a T-shirt or tank top for the first 175 finishers. The Top 3 finishers in the 13 age divisions are guaranteed to win prizes. The overall male and female winners will also be awarded trophies.

Wolf Mojica is organizing the annual 4.2-kilometer walk/run event where proceeds of the annual fun run will be donated to a local charity organization.

Last year, 130 runners between the ages of one and 77 years old took part in the Silver Streak.

Track star Nate Mateo and Mamiko Oshima were the fastest male and female runners as the duo captured the men's and women's title with respective times of 26:46 and 28:58.

Among the top males were age division winners Andrew Kimball (5-10), Matheu Mancao (11-20), Jerson Vil-



JON PEREZ
Mieko Carey runs along Beach Road in a recent race. Carey won last year's Tom Picarillo Fun Run.

Iamor (21-30), Tamio Nishikido (31-40), Sathiya Kalarikkal (41-50), Chang Whan Jang (51-60), Bruce MacMillan (61-70), and ageless wonder John Joyner of the 71-and-over category.

The fastest women age groupers were youngster Soleil Lamar (5-10), Melissa Halaby (11-20), former PIC Clubmate Mieko Carey (21-30), triathlete Kimiko Hasegawa (31-40), Irma Halaby (41-50), the unstoppable Monica Yamaguchi (51-60), Aenaida Tydingco (61-70), and Donna White (71-Over).

For more information about the Silver Streak, call Mojica at 236-2540 or Marida Pensader at 236-2530 or marida.pensader@dfs.com.